16

Domestic Girlfriend

KEI SASUGA

Domestic Girlfriend

16

DOME
GIRL

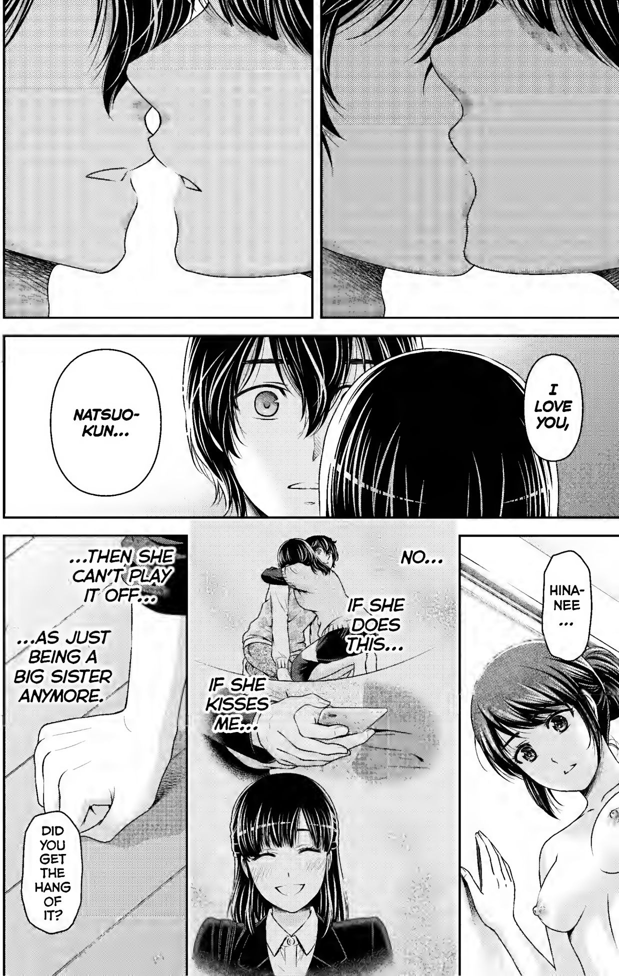
KEI SASUGA

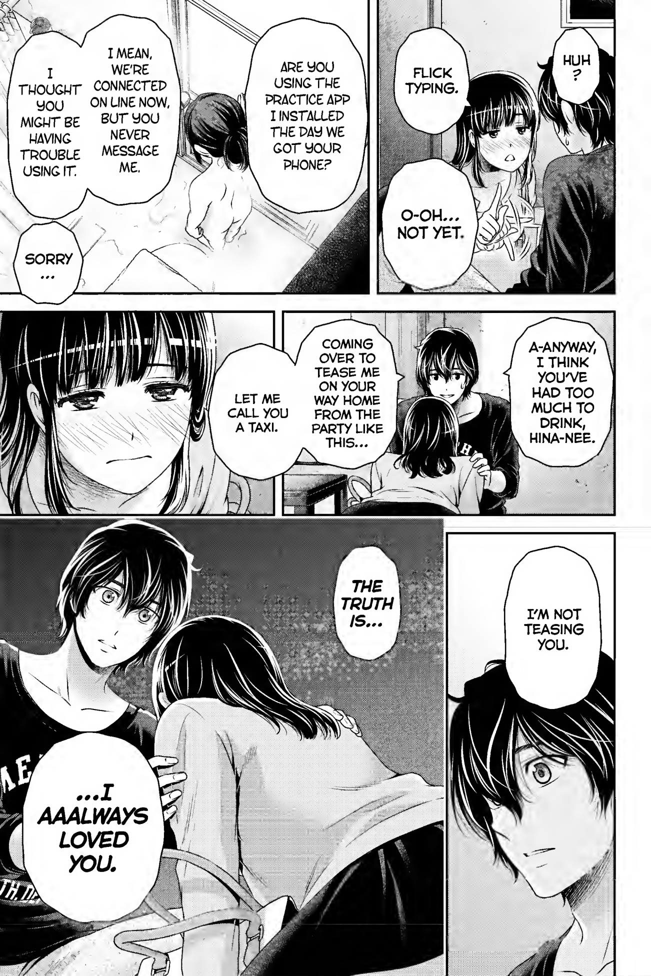
DOME
GIRL

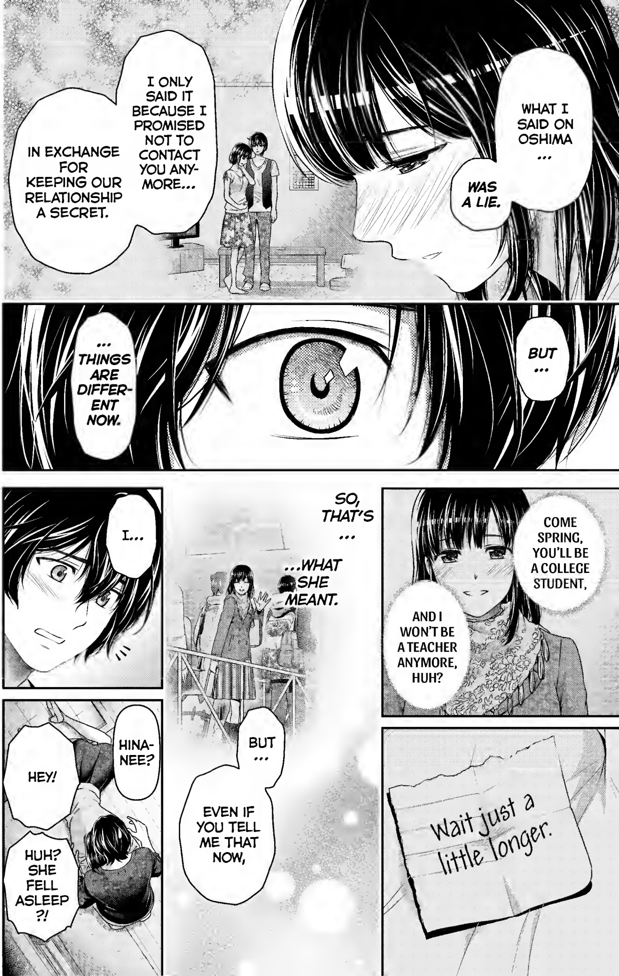
16 CONTENTS

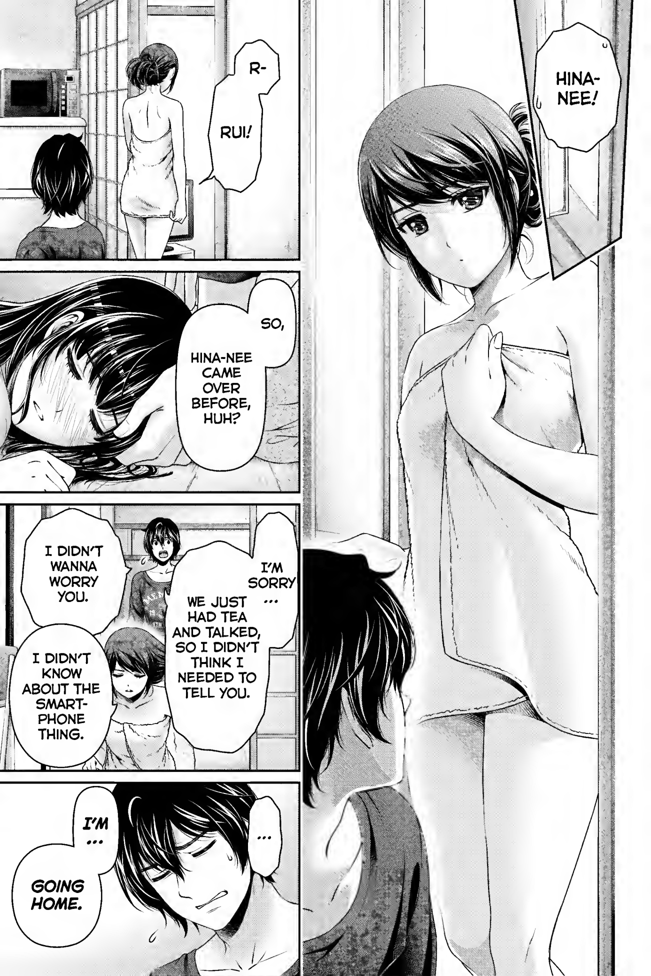
CH.145	PAPER-THIN RELATIONSHIP	3
CH.146	BALANCE CRUMBLES	21
CH.147	FOR THE FUTURE	39
CH.148	RITUAL OF DETERMINATION	57
CH.149	THE OUTCOME OF RESOLVE	75
CH.150	RASHNESS & REGRET	93
CH.151	FIRST GROUP PROJECT	111
CH.152	I WANNA TAKE YOUR VIRGINITY	130
CH.153	FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP	149
CH.154	UNFORSAKABLE MEMORIES	167
EXTRA	LOVE TALK	185

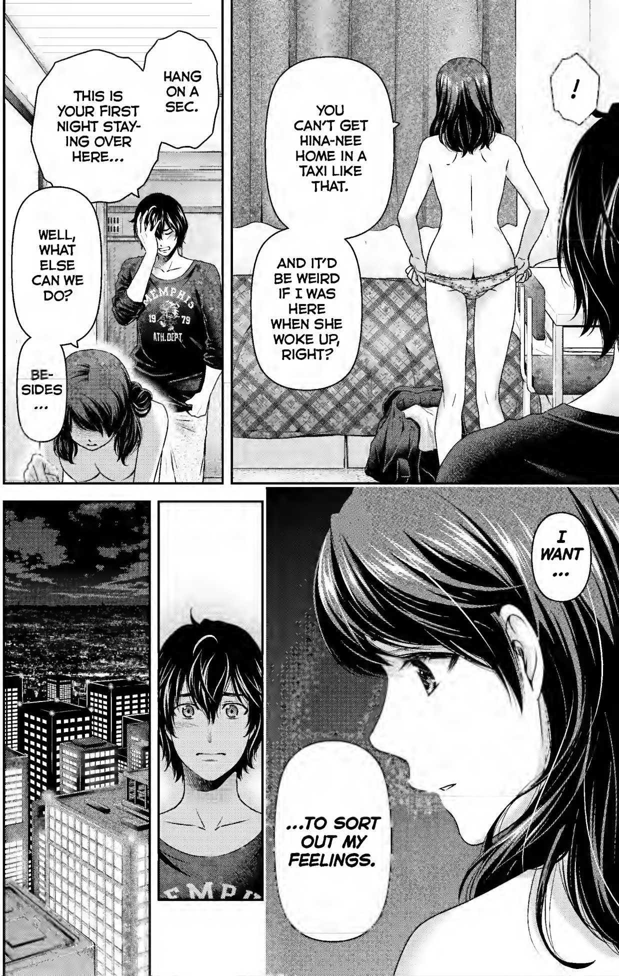
CHAPTER 145: PAPER-THIN RELATIONSHIP

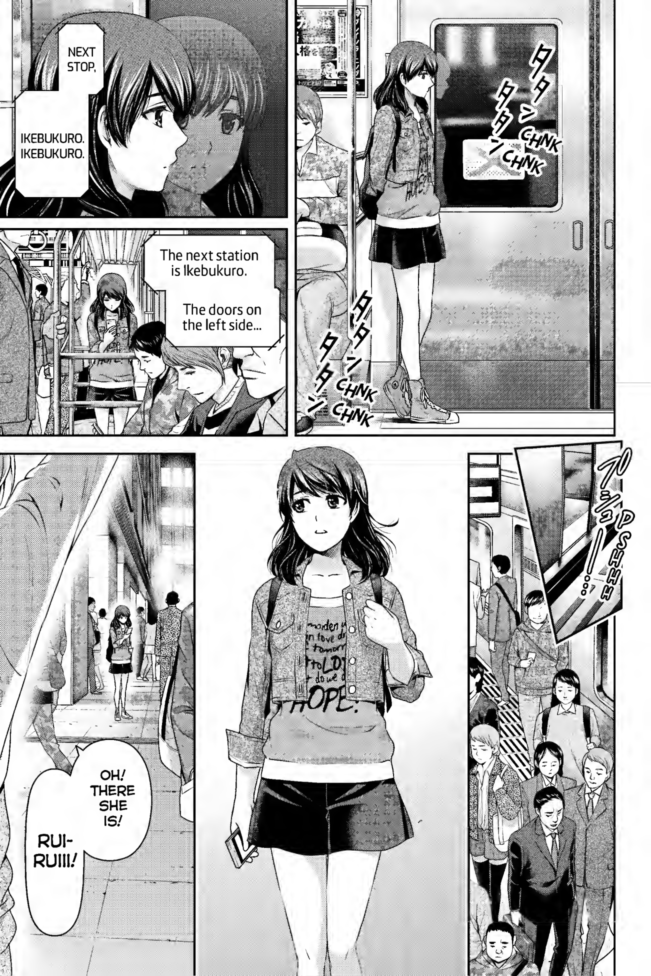

I LOVE YOU,
NATSUO-KUN...
HINA-NEE...
NO...
IF SHE DOES THIS...
IF SHE KISSES ME...
...THEN SHE CAN'T PLAY IT OFF...
...AS JUST BEING A BIG SISTER ANYMORE.
DID YOU GET THE HANG OF IT?

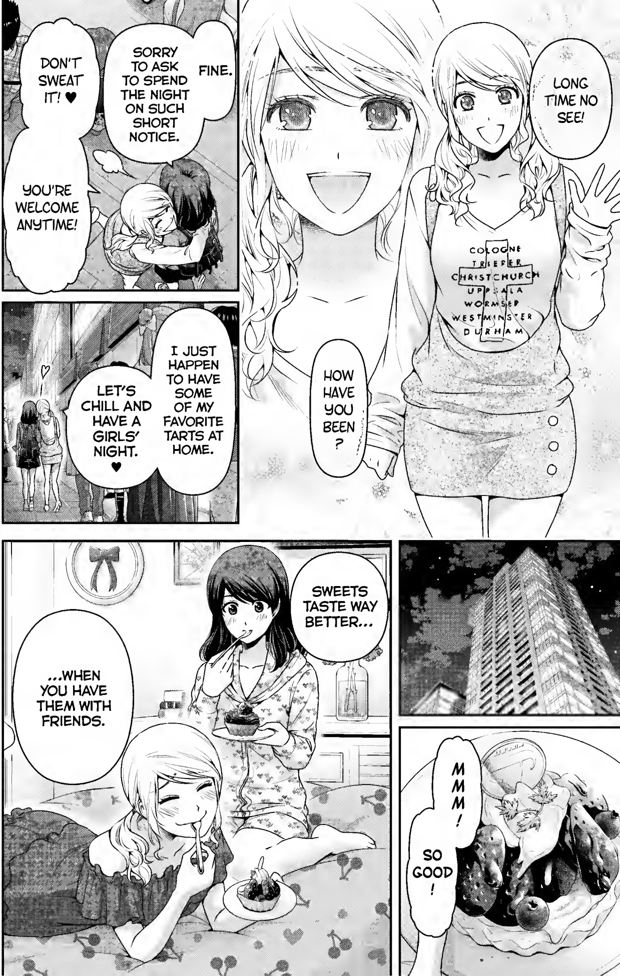

HUH?
FLICK TYPING.
O-OH... NOT YET.
ARE YOU USING THE PRACTICE APP I INSTALLED THE DAY WE GOT YOUR PHONE?
I MEAN, WE'RE CONNECTED ON LINE NOW, BUT YOU NEVER MESSAGE ME.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HAVING TROUBLE USING IT.
SORRY...
A-ANYWAY, I THINK YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK, HINA-NEE.
COMING OVER TO TEASE ME ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM THE PARTY LIKE THIS...
LET ME CALL YOU A TAXI.
I'M NOT TEASING YOU.
THE TRUTH IS...
...I AAALWAYS LOVED YOU.

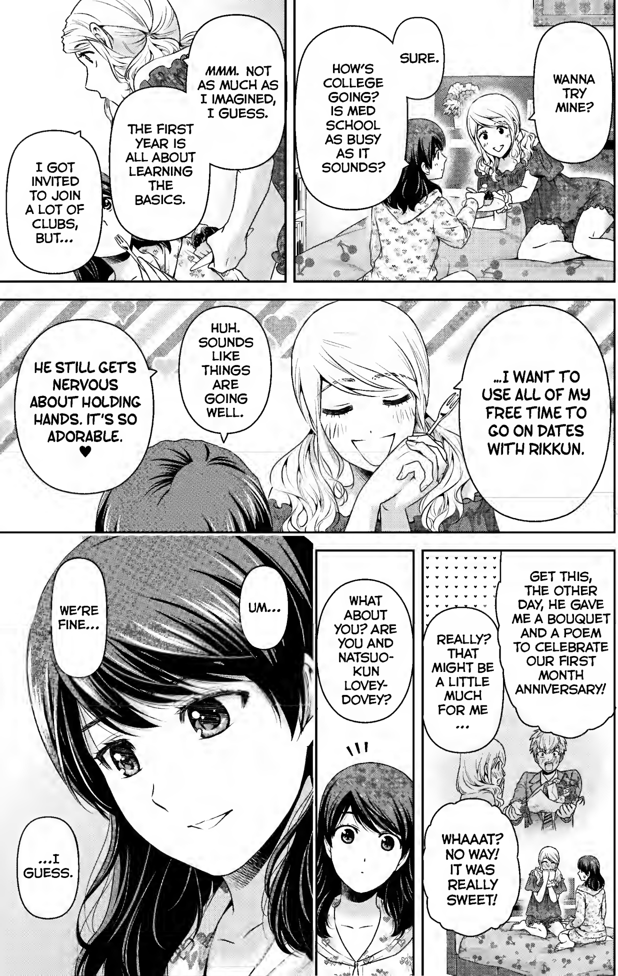

WHAT I SAID ON OSHIMA ...
WAS A LIE.
I ONLY SAID IT BECAUSE I PROMISED NOT TO CONTACT YOU ANYMORE...
IN EXCHANGE FOR KEEPING OUR RELATIONSHIP A SECRET.
BUT ...
... THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
COME SPRING, YOU'LL BE A COLLEGE STUDENT,
AND I WON'T BE A TEACHER ANYMORE, HUH?
SO, THAT'S ...
...WHAT SHE MEANT.
I...
Wait just a little longer.
BUT ...
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THAT NOW,
HINA-NEE?
HEY!
HUH? SHE FELL ASLEEP ?!

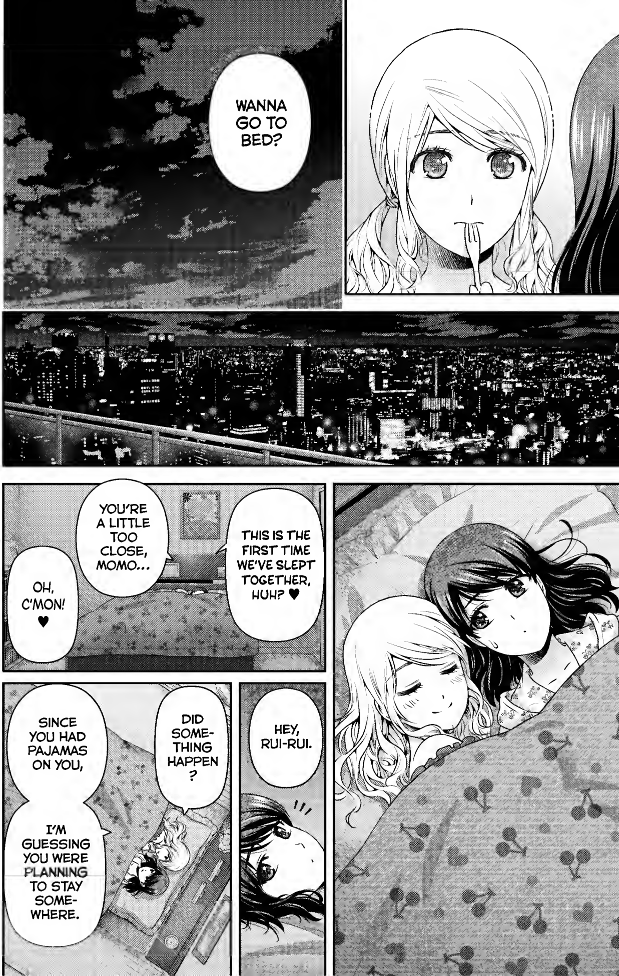

R- RUI!
SO, HINA-NEE CAME OVER BEFORE, HUH?
I'M SORRY...
WE JUST HAD TEA AND TALKED, SO I DIDN'T THINK I NEEDED TO TELL YOU.
I DIDN'T WANNA WORRY YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE SMARTPHONE THING.
...
I'M... GOING HOME.
HINA-NEE!

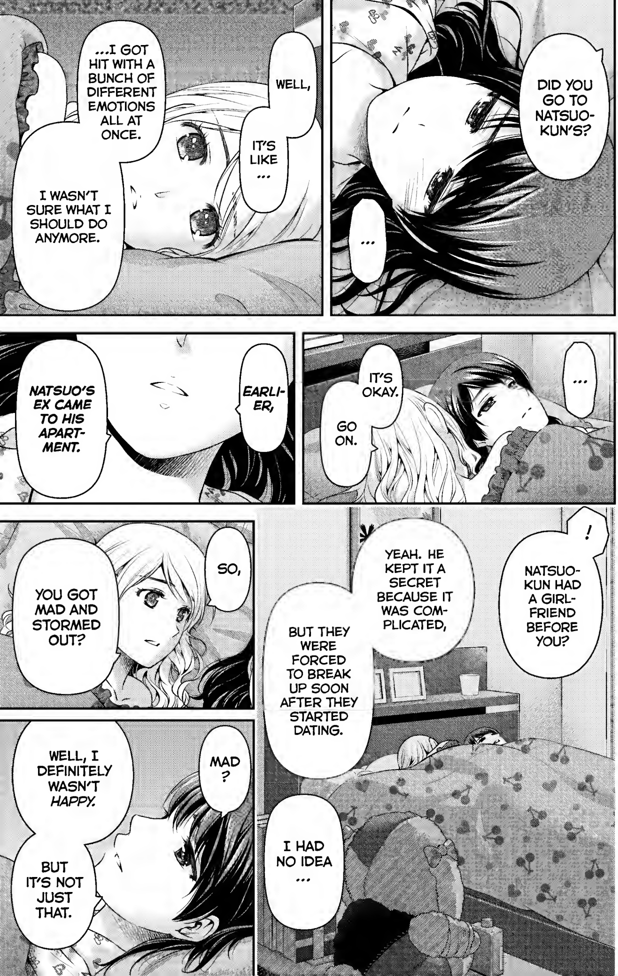

!
YOU CAN'T GET HINA-NEE HOME IN A TAXI LIKE THAT.
AND IT'D BE WEIRD IF I WAS HERE WHEN SHE WOKE UP, RIGHT?
HANG ON A SEC.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST NIGHT STAYING OVER HERE...
MEMPHIS 1979 ATH.DEPT
WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
BESIDES...
I WANT...
...TO SORT OUT MY FEELINGS.
MEMPH

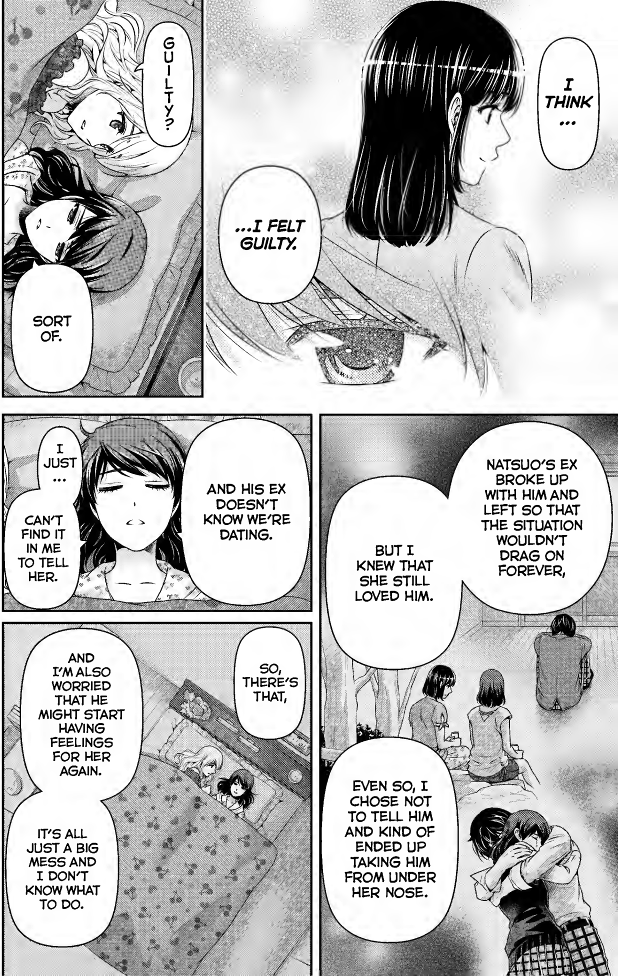

タタン
タタン
CHNK
CHNK
NEXT STOP,
IKEBUKURO. IKEBUKURO.
The next station is Ikebukuro.
The doors on the left side...
タタン
タタン
CHNK
CHNK
プシュー…
PSHHH
OH! THERE SHE IS!
RUI-RUIII!

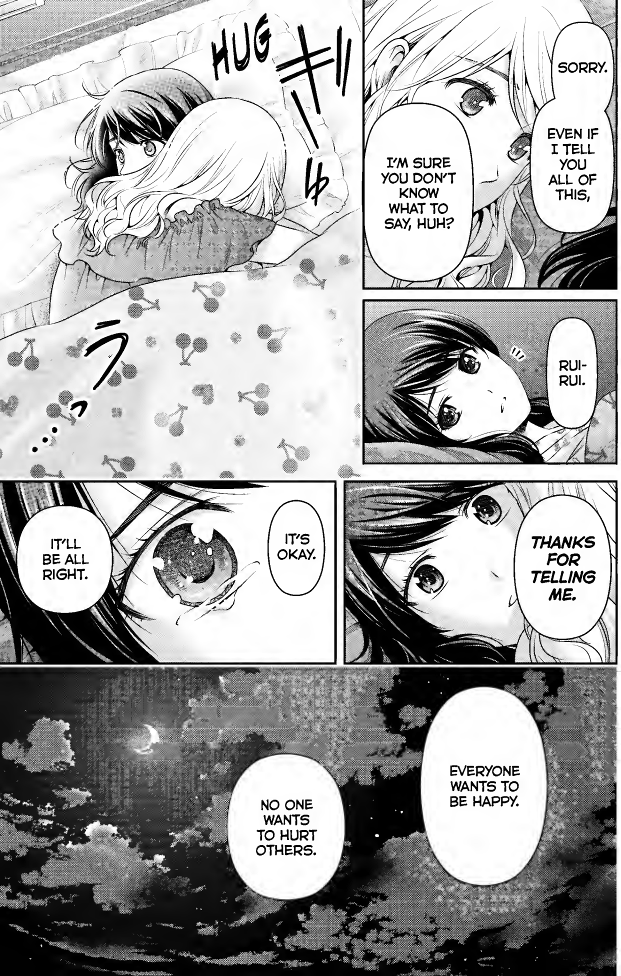

LONG TIME NO SEE!
COLOGNE
TRIEFER
CHRISTCHURCH
UPPSALA
WORMSEP
WESTMINSTER
DURHAM
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
FINE.
SORRY TO ASK TO SPEND THE NIGHT ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
DON'T SWEAT IT! ♥
YOU'RE WELCOME ANYTIME!
I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME OF MY FAVORITE TARTS AT HOME.
LET'S CHILL AND HAVE A GIRLS' NIGHT. ♥
MMM! SO GOOD!
SWEETS TASTE WAY BETTER...
...WHEN YOU HAVE THEM WITH FRIENDS.

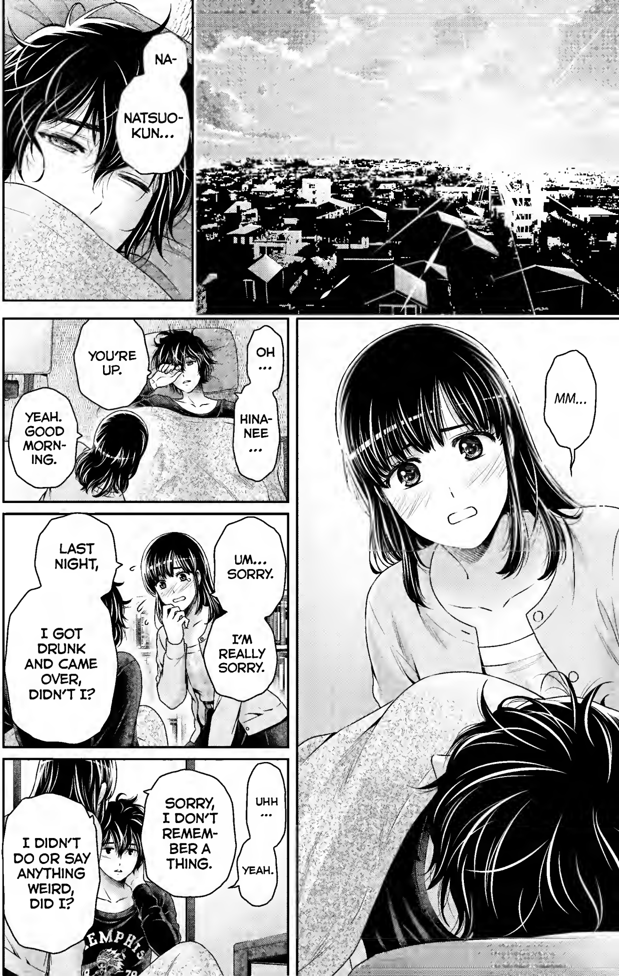

WANNA TRY MINE?
SURE.
HOW'S COLLEGE GOING? IS MED SCHOOL AS BUSY AS IT SOUNDS?
MMM. NOT AS MUCH AS I IMAGINED, I GUESS.
THE FIRST YEAR IS ALL ABOUT LEARNING THE BASICS.
I GOT INVITED TO JOIN A LOT OF CLUBS, BUT...
...I WANT TO USE ALL OF MY FREE TIME TO GO ON DATES WITH RIKKUN.
HUH. SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL.
HE STILL GETS NERVOUS ABOUT HOLDING HANDS. IT'S SO ADORABLE. ♥
GET THIS, THE OTHER DAY, HE GAVE ME A BOUQUET AND A POEM TO CELEBRATE OUR FIRST MONTH ANNIVERSARY!
REALLY? THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE MUCH FOR ME ...
WHAAAT? NO WAY! IT WAS REALLY SWEET!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU AND NATSUO-KUN LOVEY-DOVEY?
UM...
WE'RE FINE...
...I GUESS.

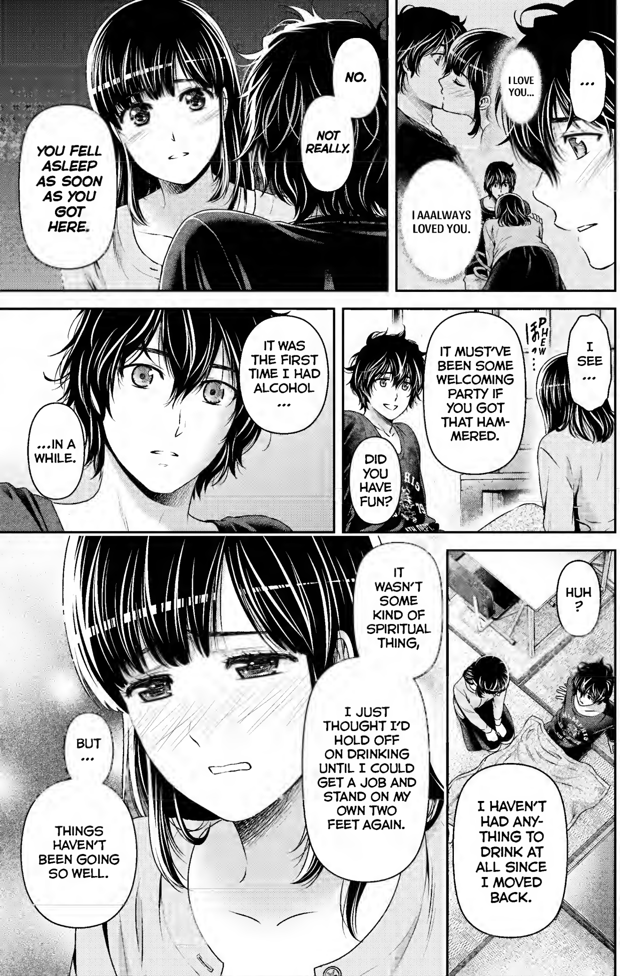

WANNA GO TO BED?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SLEPT TOGETHER, HUH? ♥
YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO CLOSE, MOMO...
OH, C'MON! ♥
HEY, RUI-RUI.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
SINCE YOU HAD PAJAMAS ON YOU,
I'M GUESSING YOU WERE PLANNING TO STAY SOMEWHERE.

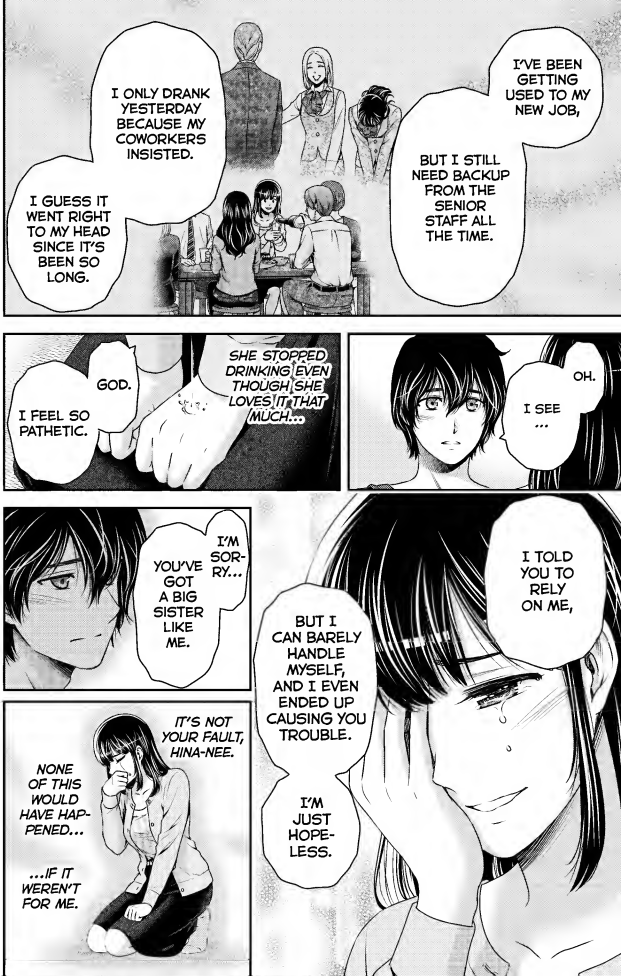

DID YOU GO TO NATSUO-KUN'S?
...
WELL,
IT'S LIKE ...
...I GOT HIT WITH A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT EMOTIONS ALL AT ONCE.
I WASN'T SURE WHAT I SHOULD DO ANYMORE.
...
IT'S OKAY.
GO ON.
EARLIER,
NATSUO'S EX CAME TO HIS APARTMENT.
!
NATSUO-KUN HAD A GIRLFRIEND BEFORE YOU?
YEAH. HE KEPT IT A SECRET BECAUSE IT WAS COMPLICATED,
BUT THEY WERE FORCED TO BREAK UP SOON AFTER THEY STARTED DATING.
I HAD NO IDEA ...
SO,
YOU GOT MAD AND STORMED OUT?
MAD?
WELL, I DEFINITELY WASN'T *HAPPY.*
BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT.

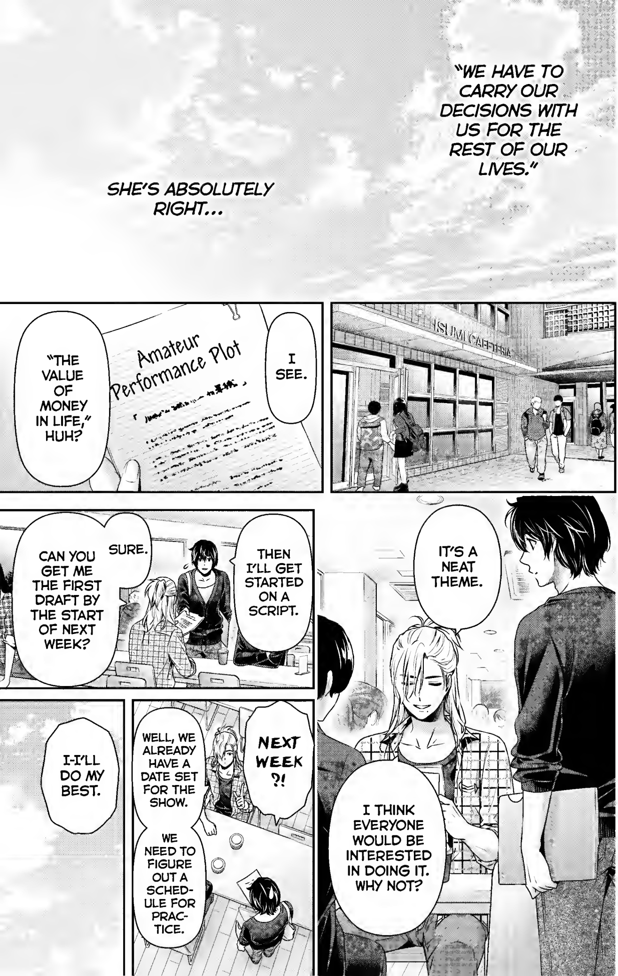

I THINK...
...I FELT GUILTY.
GUILTY?
SORT OF.
NATSUO'S EX BROKE UP WITH HIM AND LEFT SO THAT THE SITUATION WOULDN'T DRAG ON FOREVER,
BUT I KNEW THAT SHE STILL LOVED HIM.
EVEN SO, I CHOSE NOT TO TELL HIM AND KIND OF ENDED UP TAKING HIM FROM UNDER HER NOSE.
AND HIS EX DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE DATING.
I JUST...
CAN'T FIND IT IN ME TO TELL HER.
SO, THERE'S THAT,
AND I'M ALSO WORRIED THAT HE MIGHT START HAVING FEELINGS FOR HER AGAIN.
IT'S ALL JUST A BIG MESS AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

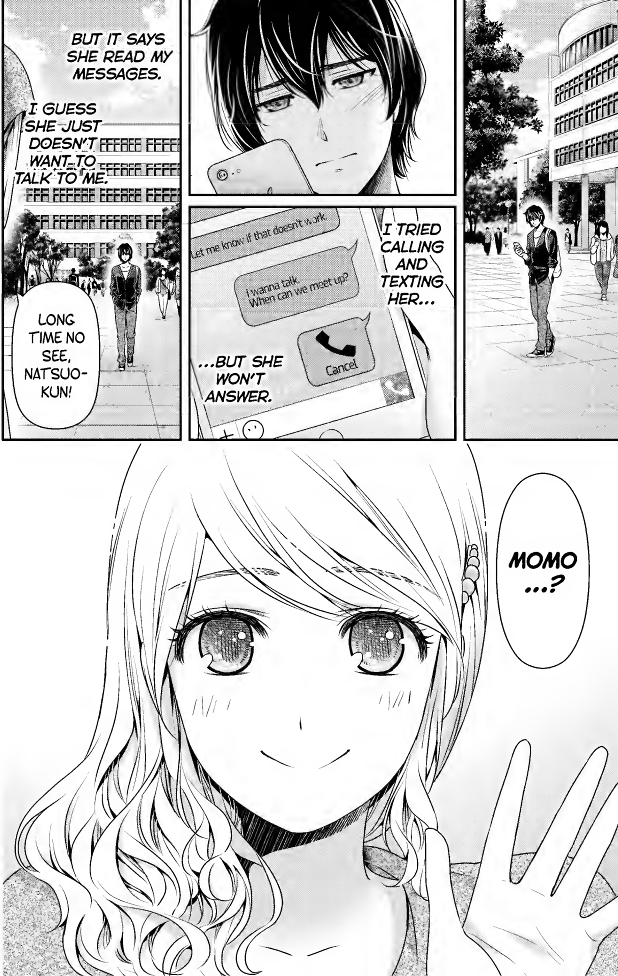

SORRY.
EVEN IF I TELL YOU ALL OF THIS,
I'M SURE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, HUH?
RUI-RUI.
HUG
ギュ
うっ…
THANKS FOR TELLING ME.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
EVERYONE WANTS TO BE HAPPY.
NO ONE WANTS TO HURT OTHERS.


NA-
NATSUO-KUN...
MM...
OH...
HINA-NEE...
YOU'RE UP.
YEAH. GOOD MORNING.
UM... SORRY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
LAST NIGHT,
I GOT DRUNK AND CAME OVER, DIDN'T I?
UHH...
YEAH.
SORRY, I DON'T REMEMBER A THING.
I DIDN'T DO OR SAY ANYTHING WEIRD, DID I?


...
I LOVE YOU...
I AAALWAYS LOVED YOU.
NO.
NOT REALLY.
YOU FELL ASLEEP AS SOON AS YOU GOT HERE.
I SEE...
PHEW
IT MUST'VE BEEN SOME WELCOMING PARTY IF YOU GOT THAT HAMMERED.
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD ALCOHOL...
...IN A WHILE.
HUH?
I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO DRINK AT ALL SINCE I MOVED BACK.
IT WASN'T SOME KIND OF SPIRITUAL THING,
I JUST THOUGHT I'D HOLD OFF ON DRINKING UNTIL I COULD GET A JOB AND STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET AGAIN.
BUT...
THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING SO WELL.


I'VE BEEN GETTING USED TO MY NEW JOB,
BUT I STILL NEED BACKUP FROM THE SENIOR STAFF ALL THE TIME.
I ONLY DRANK YESTERDAY BECAUSE MY COWORKERS INSISTED.
I GUESS IT WENT RIGHT TO MY HEAD SINCE IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
OH.
I SEE ...
SHE STOPPED DRINKING EVEN THOUGH SHE LOVES IT THAT MUCH...
GOD.
I FEEL SO PATHETIC.
I TOLD YOU TO RELY ON ME,
BUT I CAN BARELY HANDLE MYSELF, AND I EVEN ENDED UP CAUSING YOU TROUBLE.
I'M JUST HOPELESS.
I'M SORRY...
YOU'VE GOT A BIG SISTER LIKE ME.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, HINA-NEE.
NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED...
...IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME.


"WE HAVE TO CARRY OUR DECISIONS WITH US FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES."
SHE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT...
ISUMI CAFETERIA
I SEE.
"THE VALUE OF MONEY IN LIFE," HUH?
Amateur Performance Plot
IT'S A NEAT THEME.
I THINK EVERYONE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DOING IT. WHY NOT?
THEN I'LL GET STARTED ON A SCRIPT.
CAN YOU GET ME THE FIRST DRAFT BY THE START OF NEXT WEEK?
SURE.
NEXT WEEK?!
WELL, WE ALREADY HAVE A DATE SET FOR THE SHOW.
WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT A SCHEDULE FOR PRACTICE.
I-I'LL DO MY BEST.

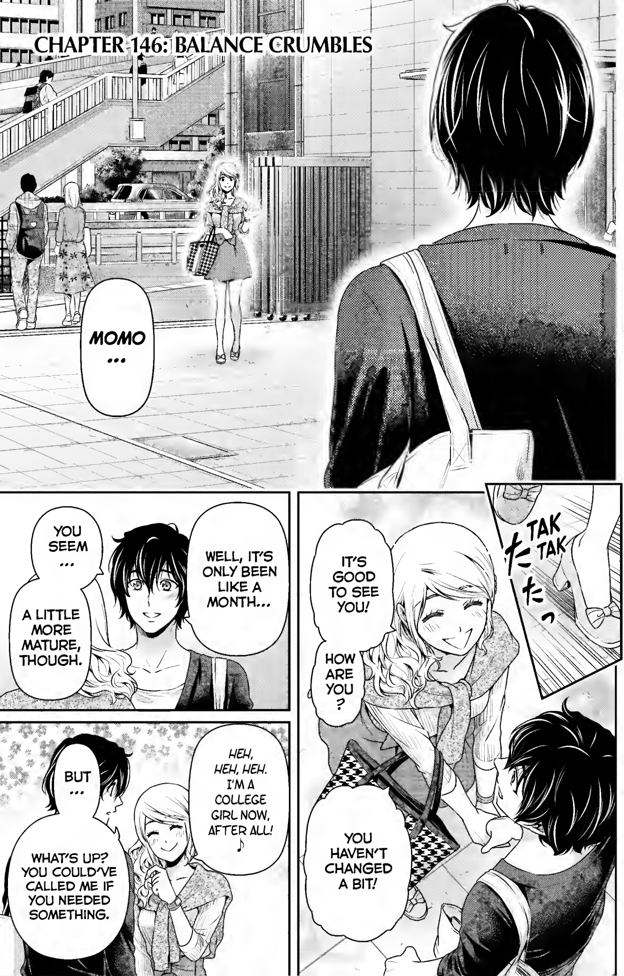


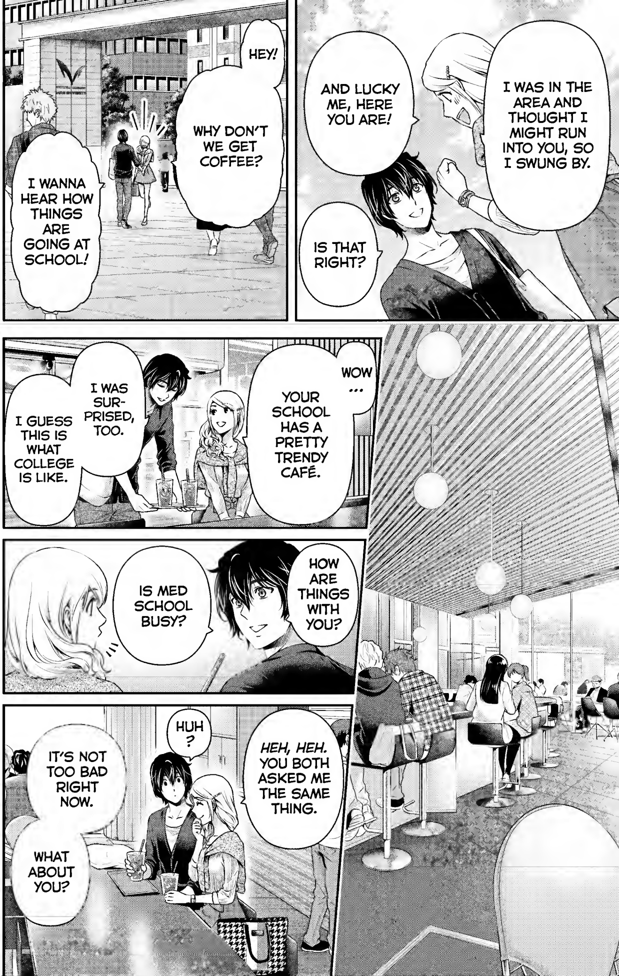
I TRIED CALLING AND TEXTING HER...
...BUT SHE WON'T ANSWER.
Cancel
BUT IT SAYS SHE READ MY MESSAGES.
I GUESS SHE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME.
LONG TIME NO SEE, NATSUO-KUN!
MOMO ...?

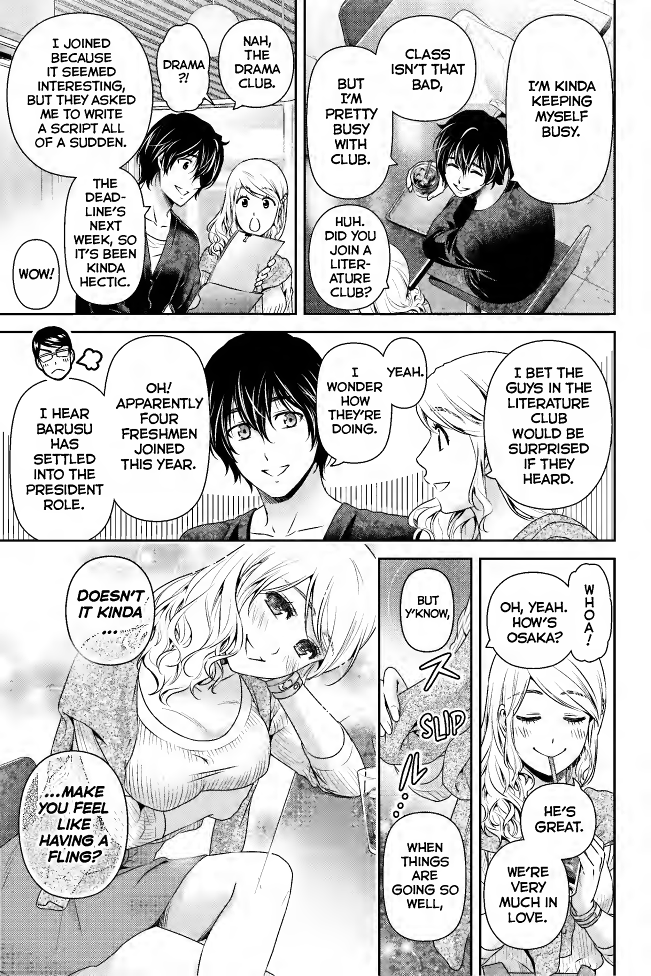
Let me know if that doesn't work.

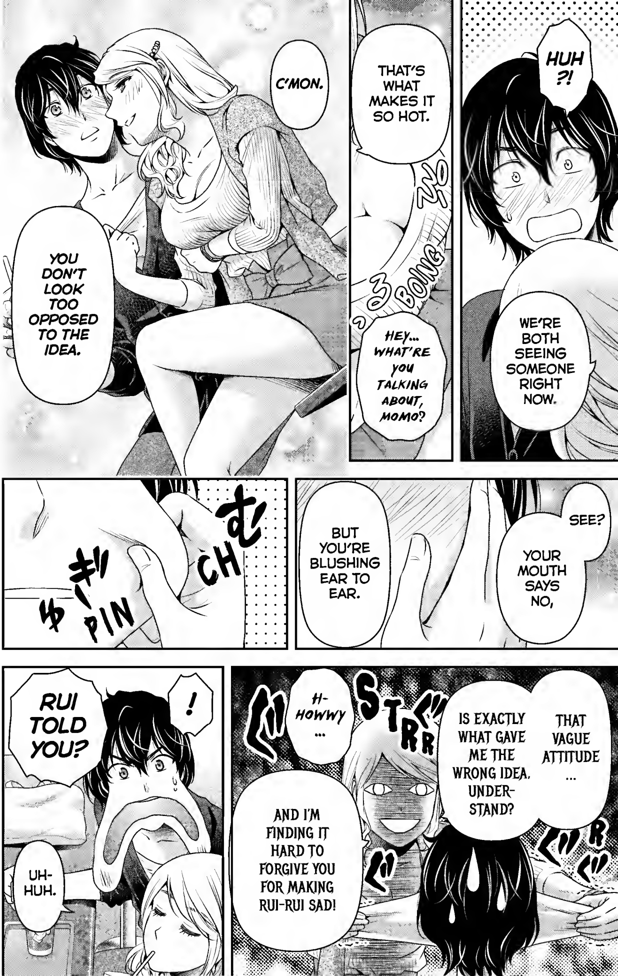
I wanna talk.
When can we meet up?

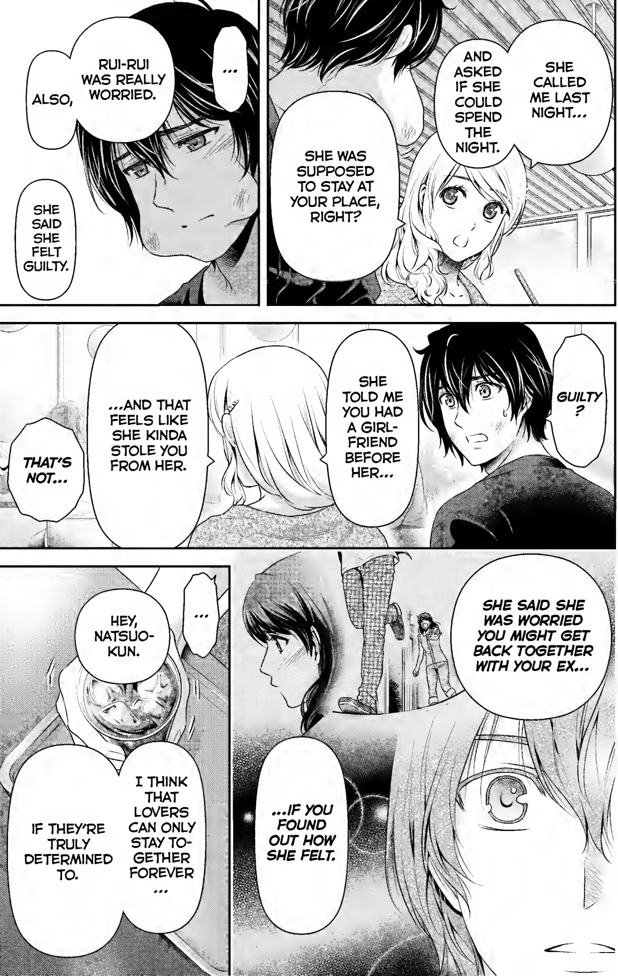
CHAPTER 146: BALANCE CRUMBLES

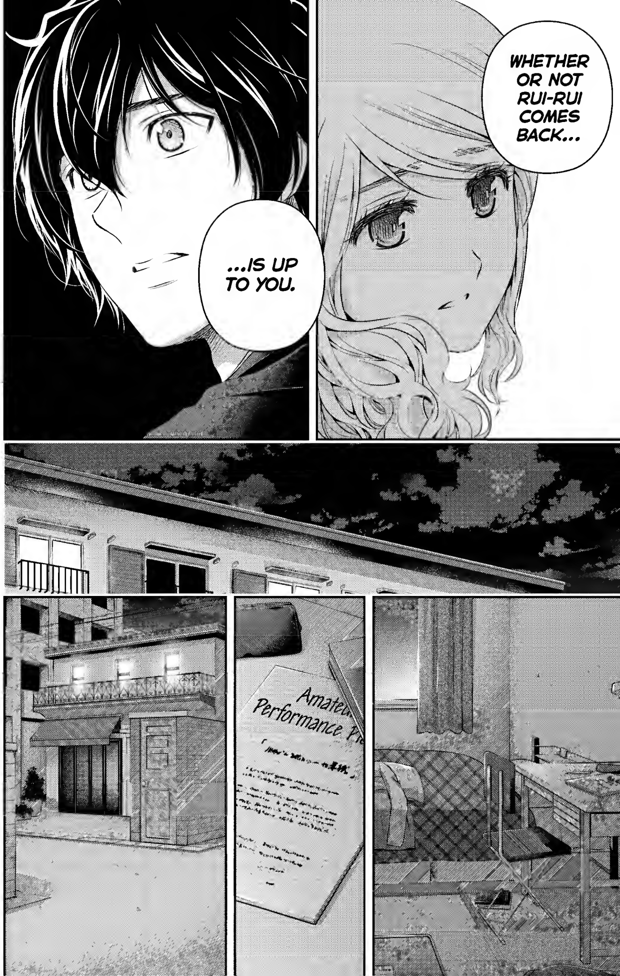

MOMO...
TAK TAK
たたっ
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HOW ARE YOU?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
WELL, IT'S ONLY BEEN LIKE A MONTH...
YOU SEEM... A LITTLE MORE MATURE, THOUGH.
HEH, HEH, HEH. I'M A COLLEGE GIRL NOW, AFTER ALL! ♪
BUT...
WHAT'S UP? YOU COULD'VE CALLED ME IF YOU NEEDED SOMETHING.

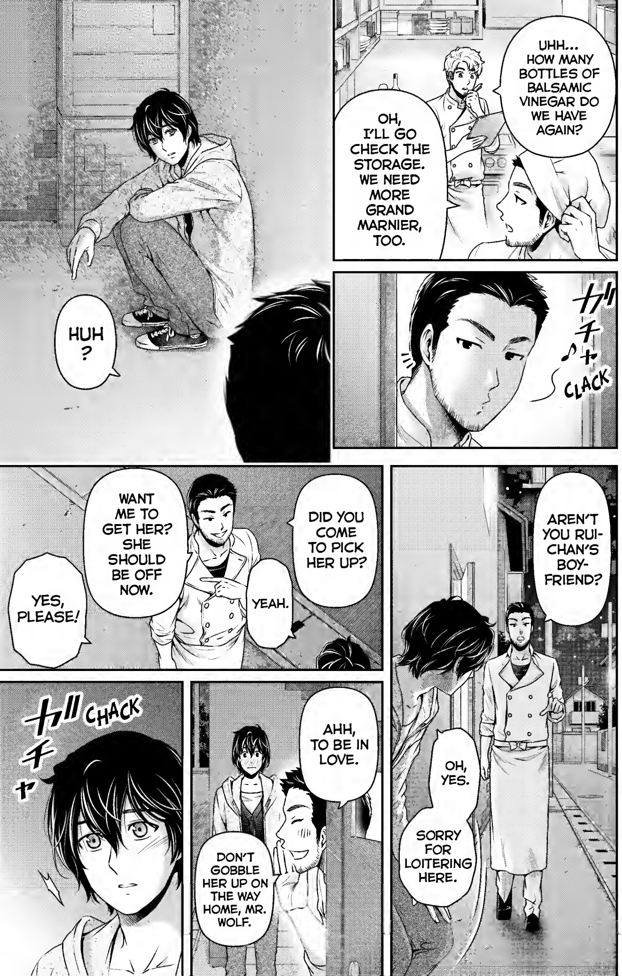

I WAS IN THE AREA AND THOUGHT I MIGHT RUN INTO YOU, SO I SWUNG BY.
AND LUCKY ME, HERE YOU ARE!
IS THAT RIGHT?
HEY!
WHY DON'T WE GET COFFEE?
I WANNA HEAR HOW THINGS ARE GOING AT SCHOOL!
WOW...
YOUR SCHOOL HAS A PRETTY TRENDY CAFÉ.
I WAS SURPRISED, TOO.
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT COLLEGE IS LIKE.
HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOU?
IS MED SCHOOL BUSY?
HEH, HEH. YOU BOTH ASKED ME THE SAME THING.
HUH?
IT'S NOT TOO BAD RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

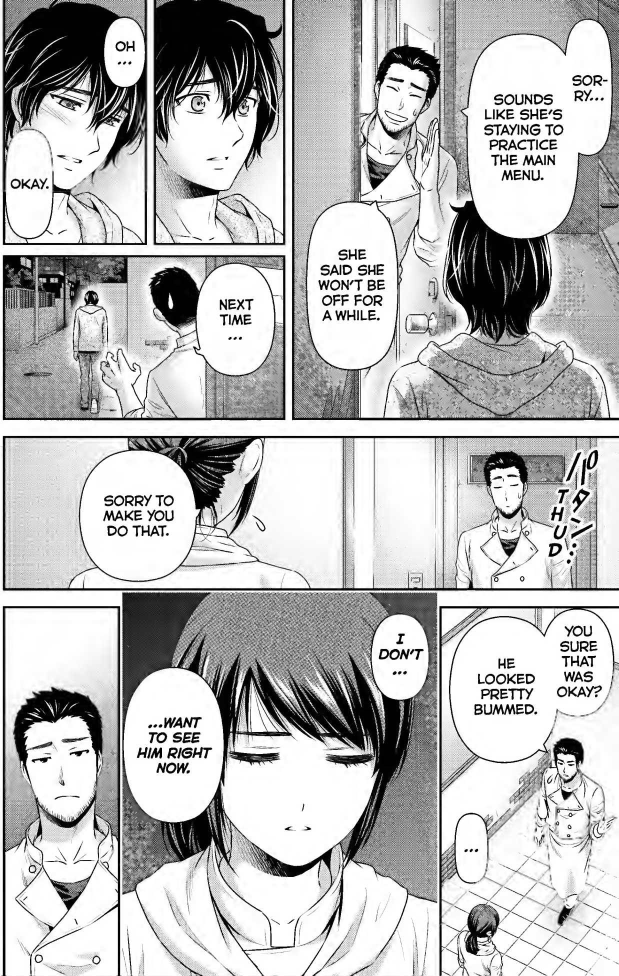

I'M KINDA KEEPING MYSELF BUSY.
CLASS ISN'T THAT BAD,
BUT I'M PRETTY BUSY WITH CLUB.
HUH. DID YOU JOIN A LITERATURE CLUB?
NAH, THE DRAMA CLUB.
DRAMA?!
I JOINED BECAUSE IT SEEMED INTERESTING, BUT THEY ASKED ME TO WRITE A SCRIPT ALL OF A SUDDEN.
THE DEADLINE'S NEXT WEEK, SO IT'S BEEN KINDA HECTIC.
WOW!
I BET THE GUYS IN THE LITERATURE CLUB WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY HEARD.
YEAH.
I WONDER HOW THEY'RE DOING.
OH! APPARENTLY FOUR FRESHMEN JOINED THIS YEAR.
I HEAR BARUSU HAS SETTLED INTO THE PRESIDENT ROLE.
WHOA!
OH, YEAH. HOW'S OSAKA?
HE'S GREAT.
WE'RE VERY MUCH IN LOVE.
BUT Y'KNOW,
ス
SLIP
ル
WHEN THINGS ARE GOING SO WELL,
DOESN'T IT KINDA...
...MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE HAVING A FLING?

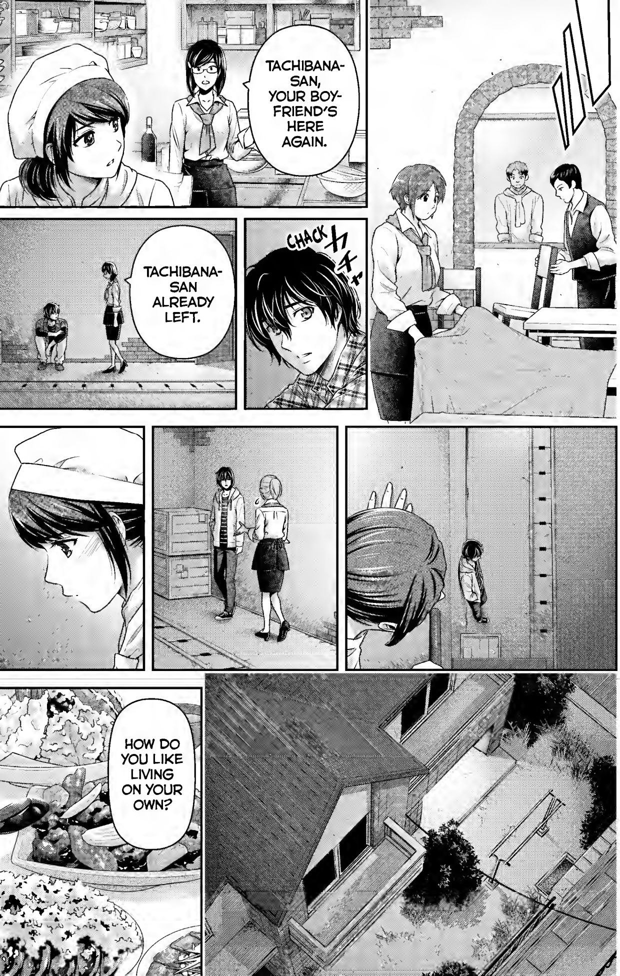

HUH?!
WE'RE BOTH SEEING SOMEONE RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO HOT.
BOING
HEY... WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MOMO?
C'MON.
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO OPPOSED TO THE IDEA.
SEE?
YOUR MOUTH SAYS NO,
BUT YOU'RE BLUSHING EAR TO EAR.
PINCH
THAT VAGUE ATTITUDE...
IS EXACTLY WHAT GAVE ME THE WRONG IDEA, UNDERSTAND?
STRR
H-HOWWY...
AND I'M FINDING IT HARD TO FORGIVE YOU FOR MAKING RUI-RUI SAD!
!
RUI TOLD YOU?
UH-HUH.

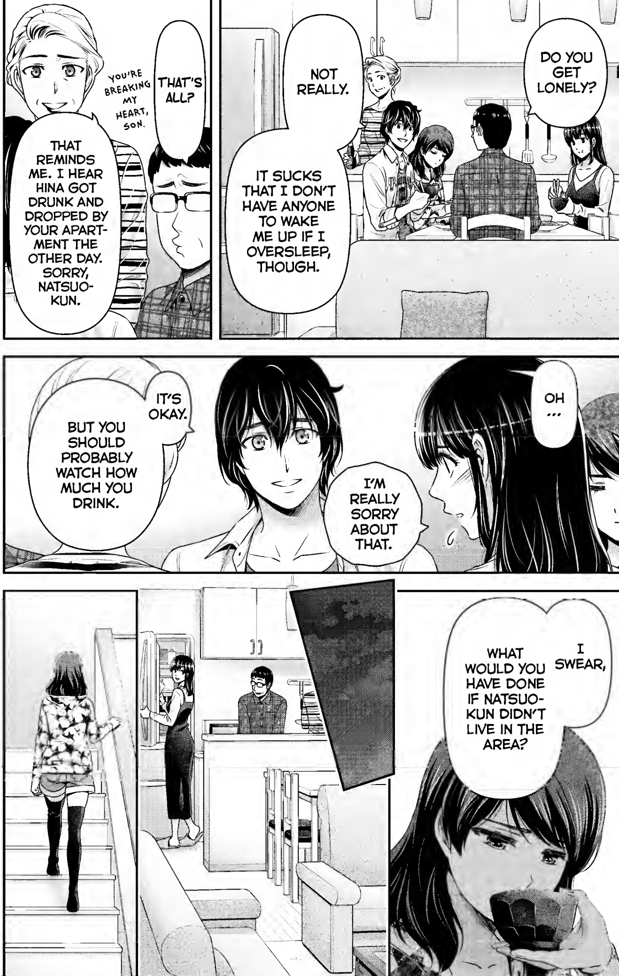

SHE CALLED ME LAST NIGHT...
AND ASKED IF SHE COULD SPEND THE NIGHT.
SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY AT YOUR PLACE, RIGHT?
...
RUI-RUI WAS REALLY WORRIED.
ALSO,
SHE SAID SHE FELT GUILTY.
GUILTY?
SHE TOLD ME YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND BEFORE HER...
...AND THAT FEELS LIKE SHE KINDA STOLE YOU FROM HER.
THAT'S NOT...
SHE SAID SHE WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT GET BACK TOGETHER WITH YOUR EX...
...IF YOU FOUND OUT HOW SHE FELT.
...
HEY, NATSUO-KUN.
I THINK THAT LOVERS CAN ONLY STAY TOGETHER FOREVER...
IF THEY'RE TRULY DETERMINED TO.

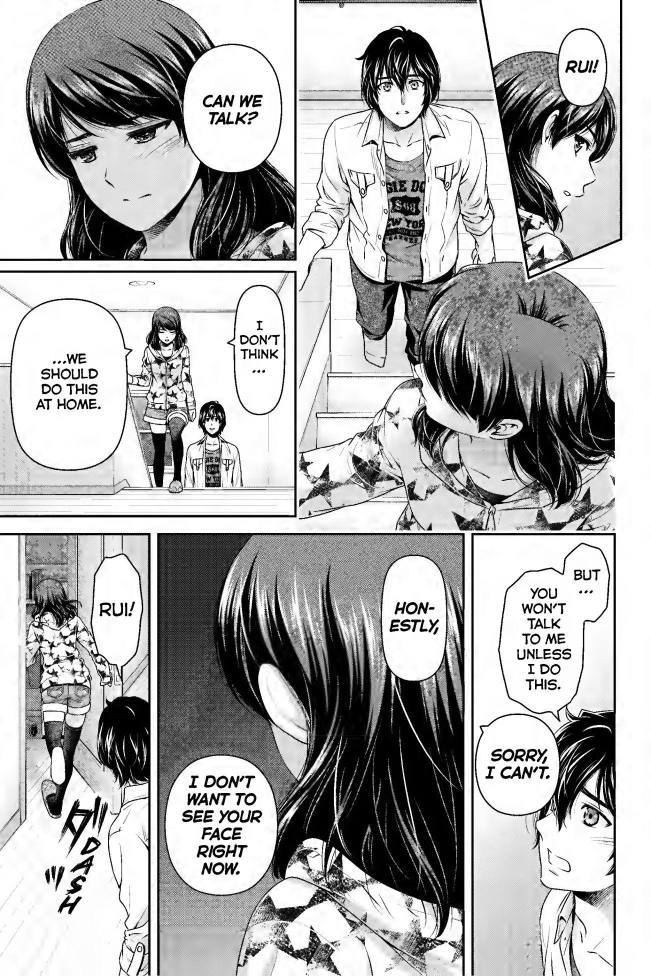

WHETHER OR NOT RUI-RUI COMES BACK...
...IS UP TO YOU.
Amateu
Performance P

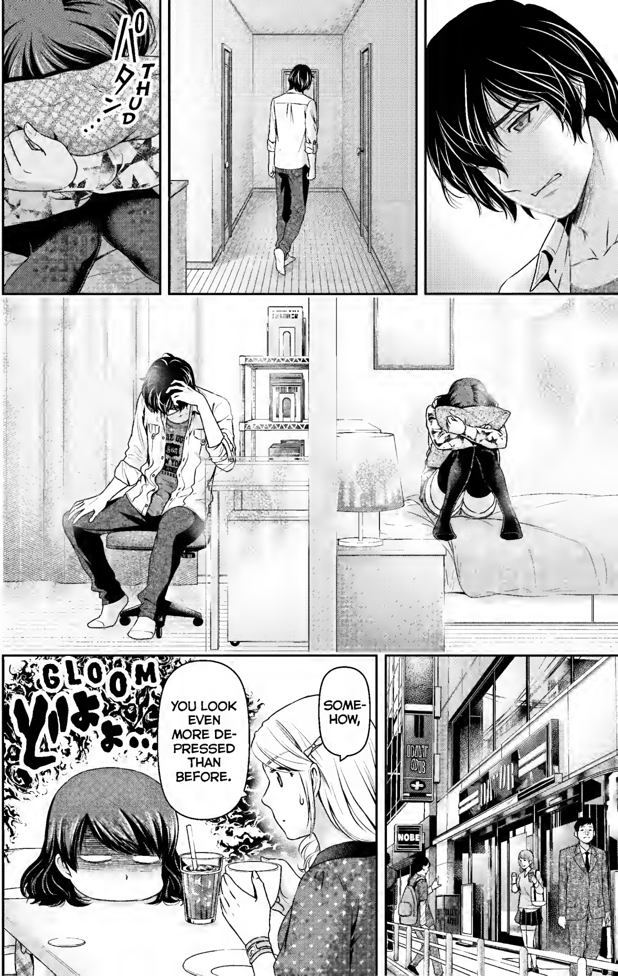

UHH... HOW MANY BOTTLES OF BALSAMIC VINEGAR DO WE HAVE AGAIN?
OH, I'LL GO CHECK THE STORAGE. WE NEED MORE GRAND MARNIER, TOO.
ガチャ
CLACK
HUH?
AREN'T YOU RUI-CHAN'S BOYFRIEND?
OH, YES.
SORRY FOR LOITERING HERE.
DID YOU COME TO PICK HER UP?
YEAH.
WANT ME TO GET HER? SHE SHOULD BE OFF NOW.
YES, PLEASE!
AHH, TO BE IN LOVE.
DON'T GOBBLE HER UP ON THE WAY HOME, MR. WOLF.
ガチャ
CHACK

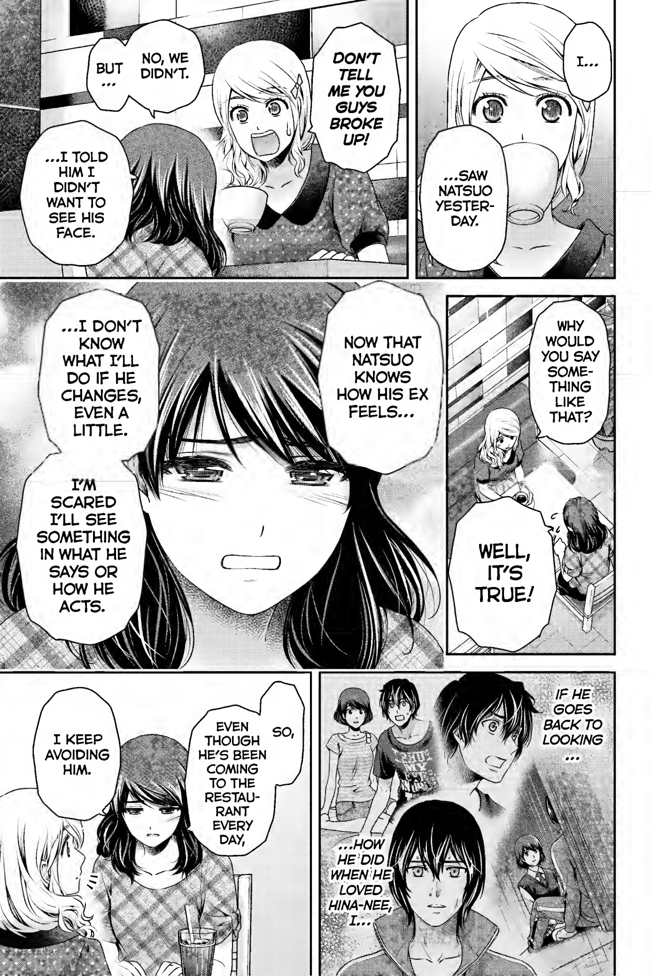

SOR-RY...
SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S STAYING TO PRACTICE THE MAIN MENU.
SHE SAID SHE WON'T BE OFF FOR A WHILE.
OH ...
OKAY.
NEXT TIME ...
THUD
SORRY TO MAKE YOU DO THAT.
YOU SURE THAT WAS OKAY?
HE LOOKED PRETTY BUMMED.
...
I DON'T ...
...WANT TO SEE HIM RIGHT NOW.

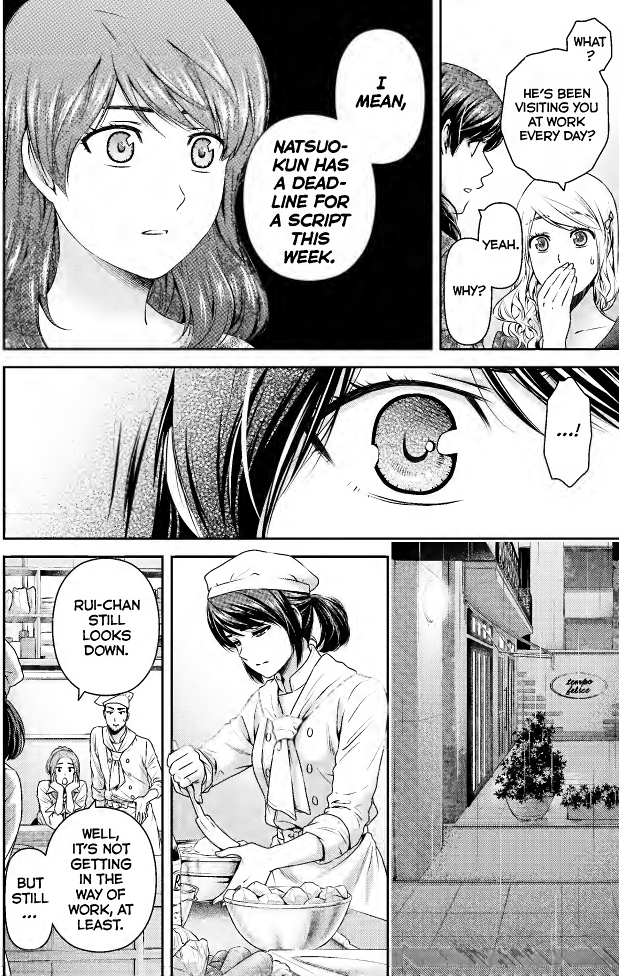

TACHIBANA-SAN, YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S HERE AGAIN.
CHACK カチャ
TACHIBANA-SAN ALREADY LEFT.
HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING ON YOUR OWN?

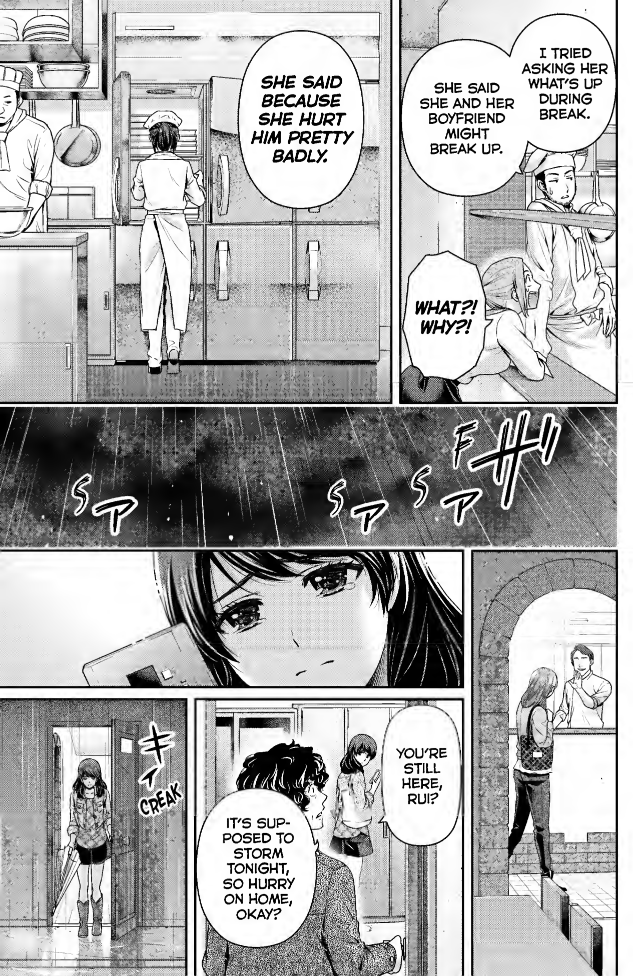

DO YOU GET LONELY?
NOT REALLY.
IT SUCKS THAT I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO WAKE ME UP IF I OVERSLEEP, THOUGH.
THAT'S ALL?
YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART, SON.
THAT REMINDS ME. I HEAR HINA GOT DRUNK AND DROPPED BY YOUR APARTMENT THE OTHER DAY. SORRY, NATSUO-KUN.
OH...
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT.
IT'S OKAY.
BUT YOU SHOULD PROBABLY WATCH HOW MUCH YOU DRINK.
I SWEAR,
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF NATSUO-KUN DIDN'T LIVE IN THE AREA?

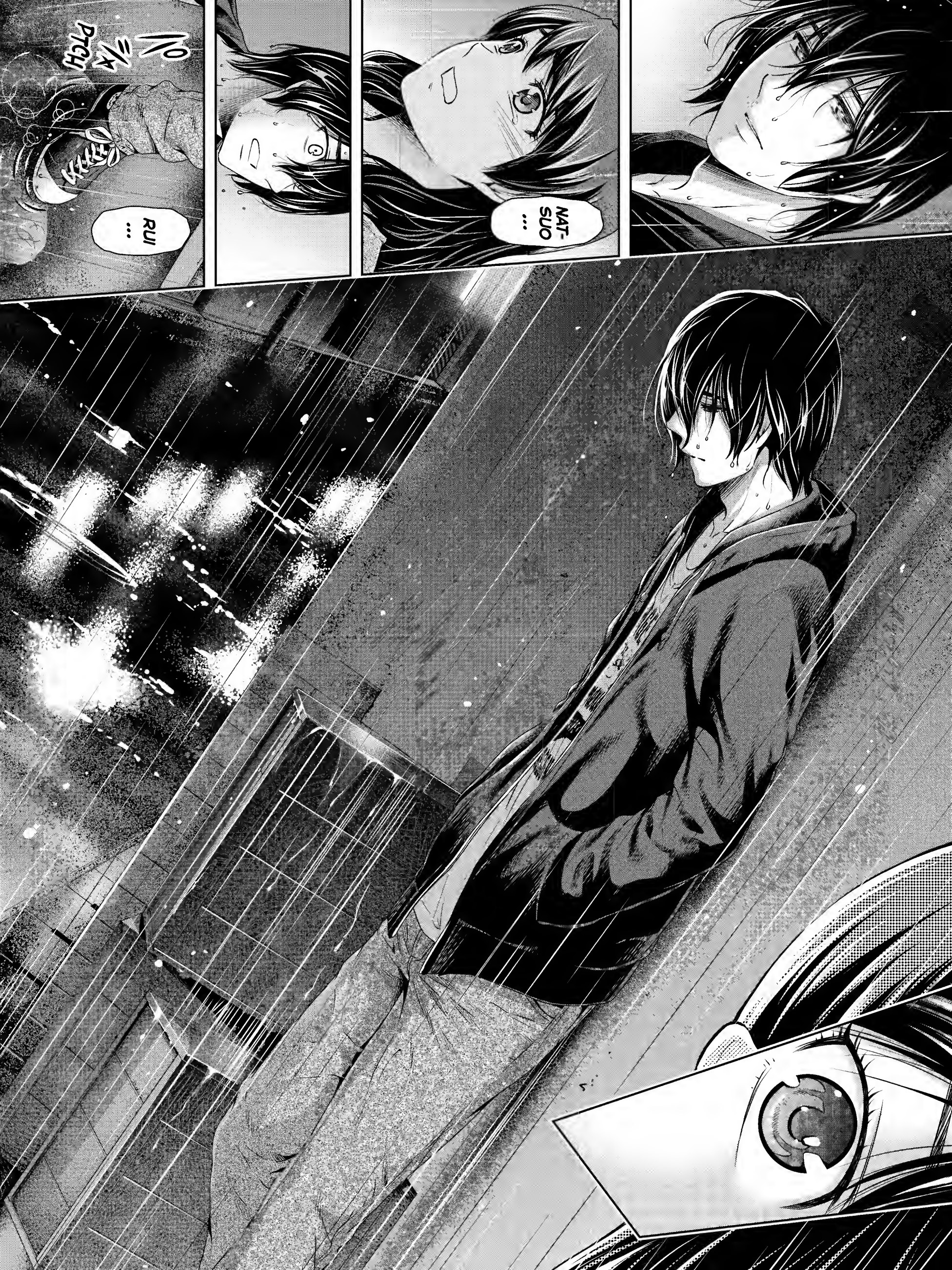

RUI!
CAN WE TALK?
I DON'T THINK...
...WE SHOULD DO THIS AT HOME.
BUT... YOU WON'T TALK TO ME UNLESS I DO THIS.
SORRY, I CAN'T.
HONESTLY,
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW.
RUI!
DASH

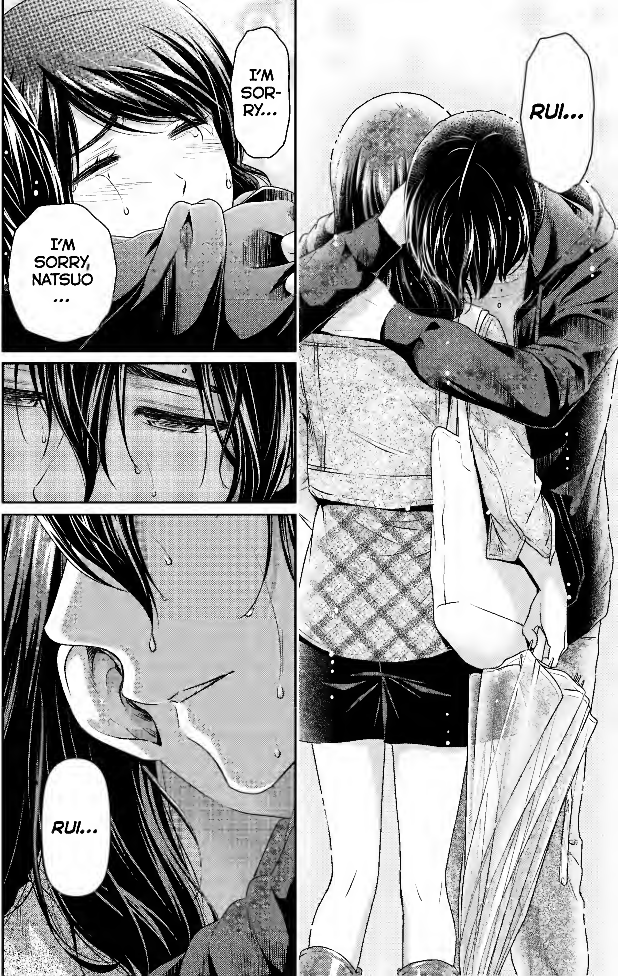

パタン…
THUD
NOBE
SOMEHOW,
YOU LOOK EVEN MORE DEPRESSED THAN BEFORE.
どよょ…
GLOOM


I...
...SAW NATSUO YESTERDAY.
DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS BROKE UP!
NO, WE DIDN'T.
BUT...
...I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIS FACE.
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WELL, IT'S TRUE!
NOW THAT NATSUO KNOWS HOW HIS EX FEELS...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO IF HE CHANGES, EVEN A LITTLE.
I'M SCARED I'LL SEE SOMETHING IN WHAT HE SAYS OR HOW HE ACTS.
IF HE GOES BACK TO LOOKING...
...HOW HE DID WHEN HE LOVED HINA-NEE, I...
SO,
EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN COMING TO THE RESTAURANT EVERY DAY,
I KEEP AVOIDING HIM.

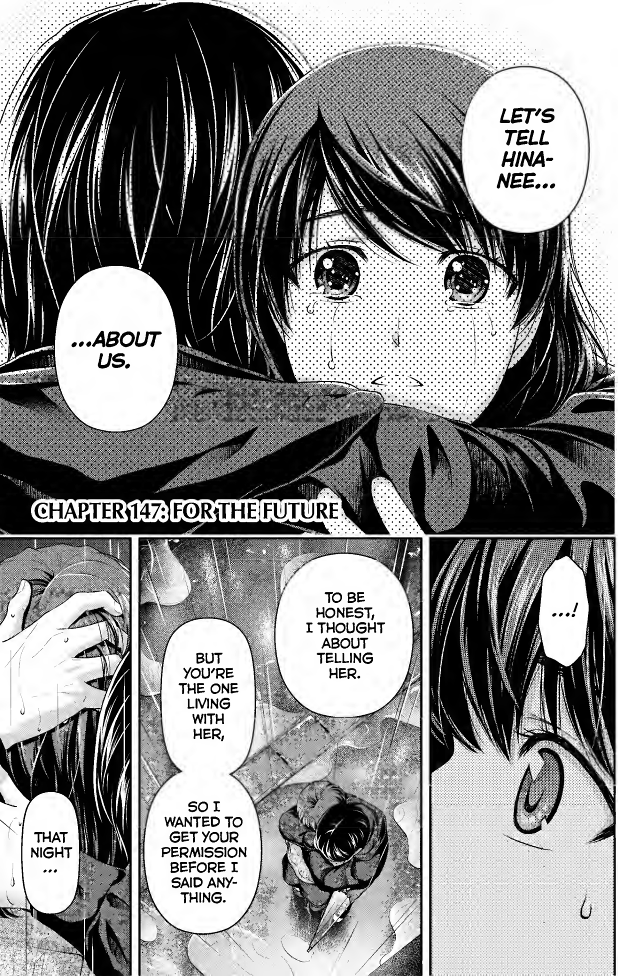

WHAT ?
HE'S BEEN VISITING YOU AT WORK EVERY DAY?
YEAH.
WHY?
I MEAN,
NATSUO-KUN HAS A DEADLINE FOR A SCRIPT THIS WEEK.
...!
tempo felice
RUI-CHAN STILL LOOKS DOWN.
WELL, IT'S NOT GETTING IN THE WAY OF WORK, AT LEAST.
BUT STILL ...

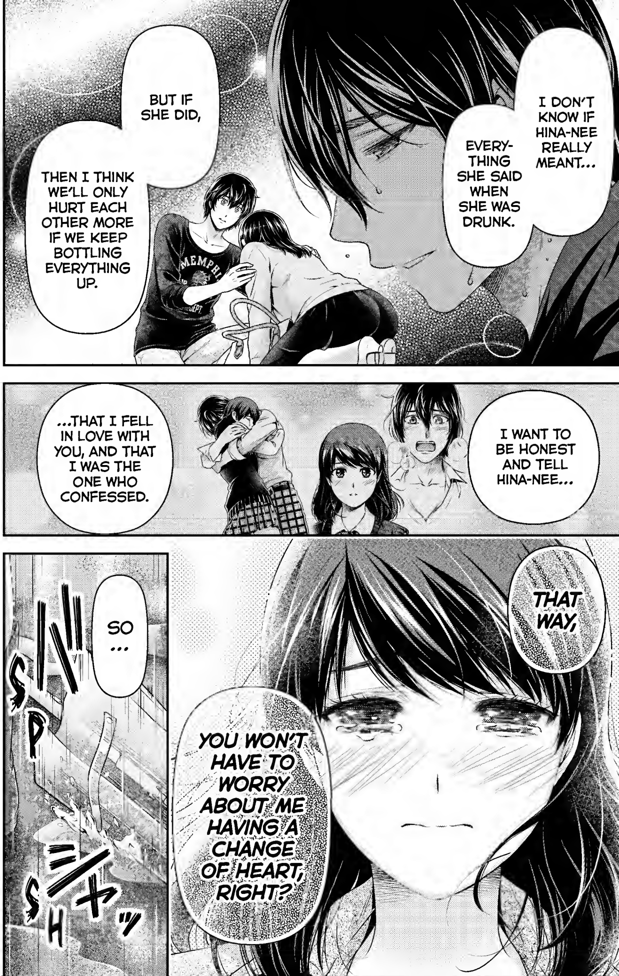

I TRIED ASKING HER WHAT'S UP DURING BREAK.
SHE SAID SHE AND HER BOYFRIEND MIGHT BREAK UP.
WHAT?! WHY?!
SHE SAID BECAUSE SHE HURT HIM PRETTY BADLY.
FHH
ザア
ザア
ザア
YOU'RE STILL HERE, RUI?
IT'S SUPPOSED TO STORM TONIGHT, SO HURRY ON HOME, OKAY?
キイ
CREAK

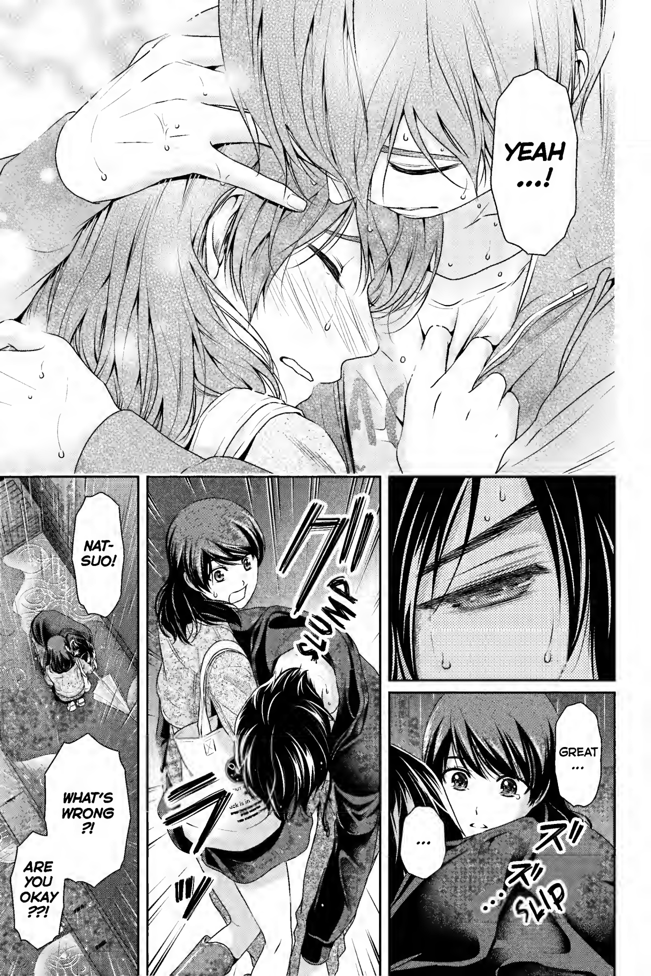

NAT-SUO ...
RUI ...
パシャ
PTCH

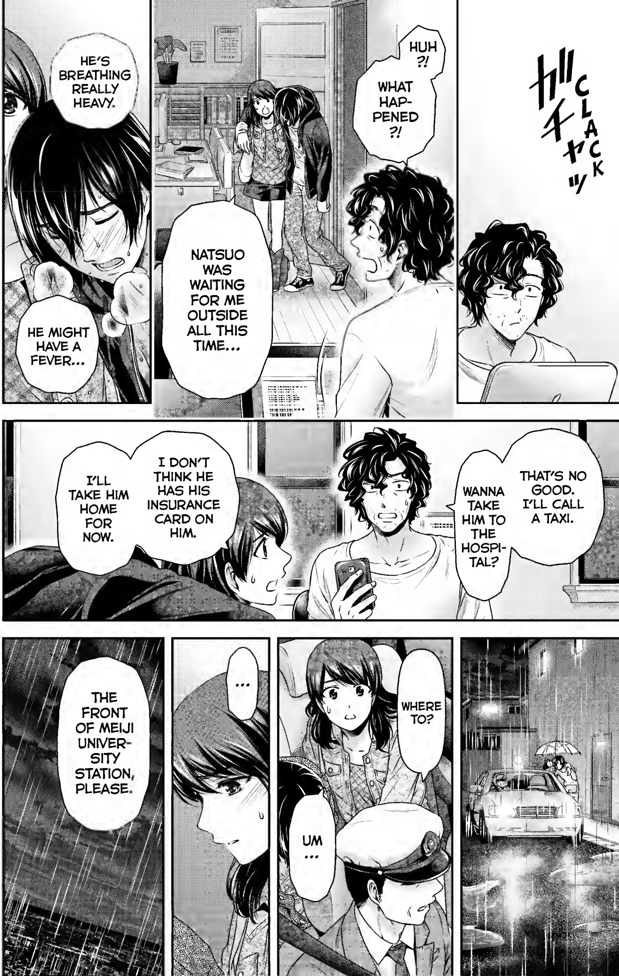

RUI...
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY, NATSUO...
RUI...

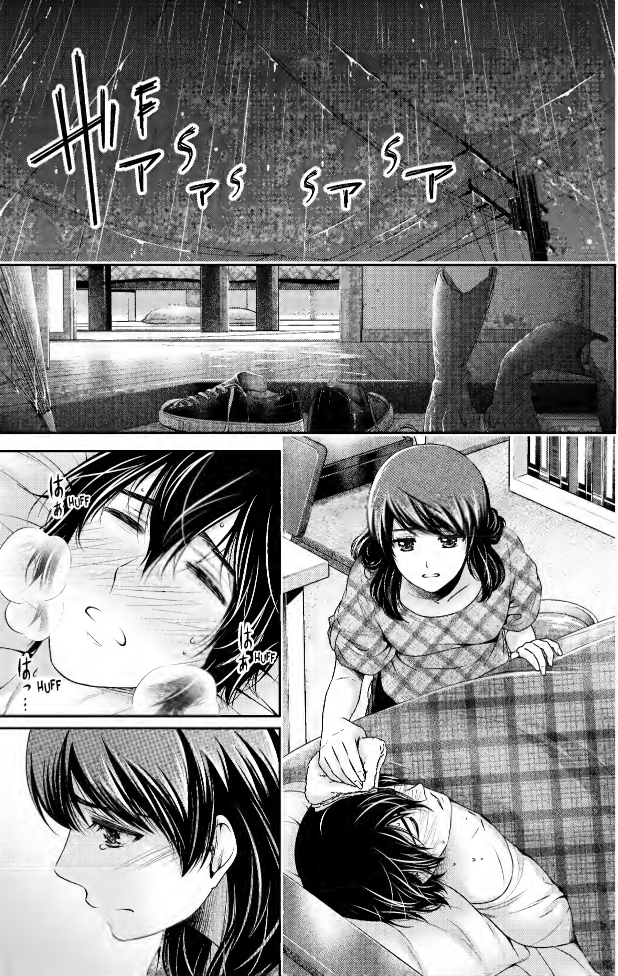
CHAPTER 147: FOR THE FUTURE

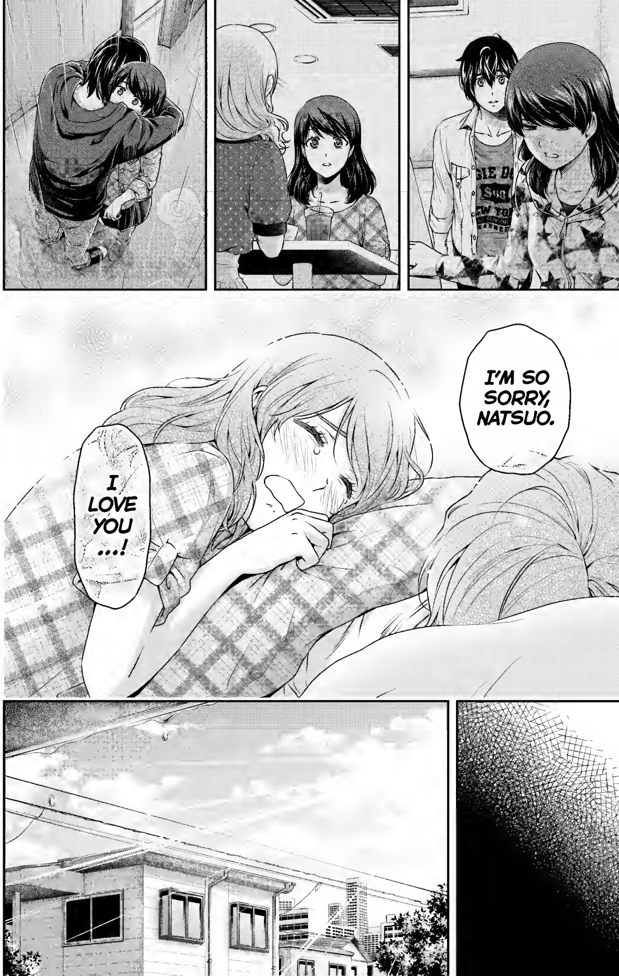

LET'S TELL HINA-NEE...
...ABOUT US.
...!
TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT ABOUT TELLING HER.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE LIVING WITH HER,
SO I WANTED TO GET YOUR PERMISSION BEFORE I SAID ANYTHING.
THAT NIGHT ...

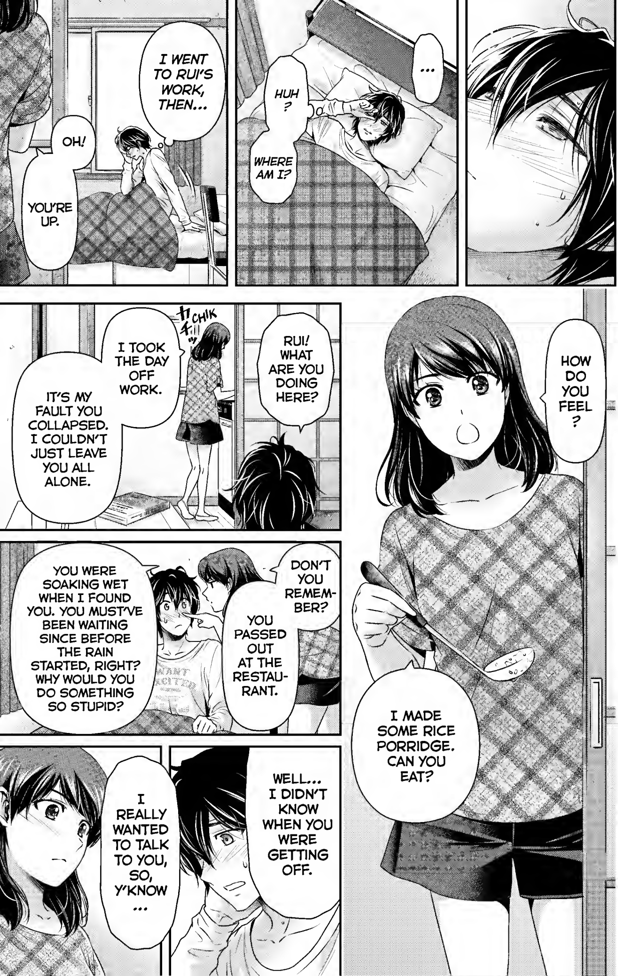

I DON'T KNOW IF HINA-NEE REALLY MEANT...
EVERYTHING SHE SAID WHEN SHE WAS DRUNK.
BUT IF SHE DID,
THEN I THINK WE'LL ONLY HURT EACH OTHER MORE IF WE KEEP BOTTLING EVERYTHING UP.
I WANT TO BE HONEST AND TELL HINA-NEE...
...THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, AND THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO CONFESSED.
THAT WAY,
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART, RIGHT?
SO...
バシャッ
SPLASH

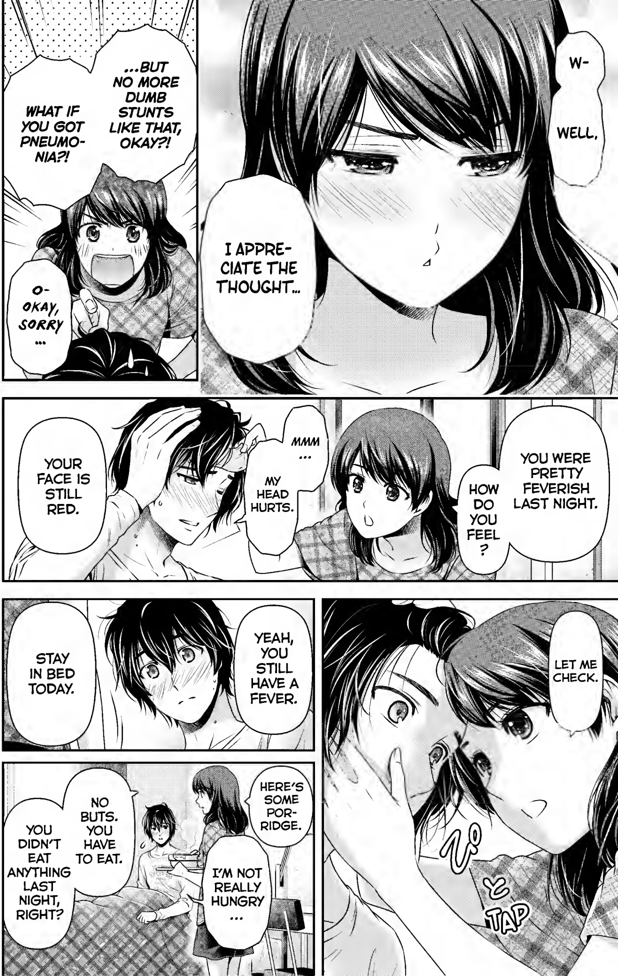

YEAH ...!
GREAT ...
...
ズ
... ズ
SLIP
ガ
SLUMP
ズ
NAT-SUO!
WHAT'S WRONG ?!
ARE YOU OKAY ??!

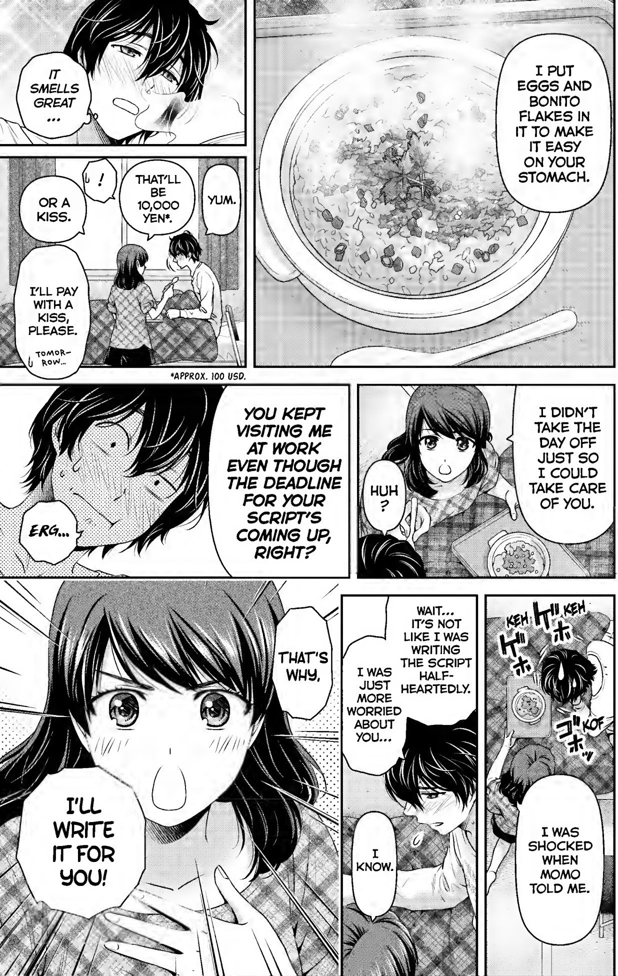

カチャッ
CLACK
HUH ?!
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
NATSUO WAS WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE ALL THIS TIME...
HE'S BREATHING REALLY HEAVY.
HE MIGHT HAVE A FEVER...
THAT'S NO GOOD. I'LL CALL A TAXI.
WANNA TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL?
I DON'T THINK HE HAS HIS INSURANCE CARD ON HIM.
I'LL TAKE HIM HOME FOR NOW.
WHERE TO?
UM ...
...
THE FRONT OF MEIJI UNIVERSITY STATION, PLEASE.


ザァァァァ
FSSSS
はぁ HUFF
はぁ HUFF
はっ HUFF
…

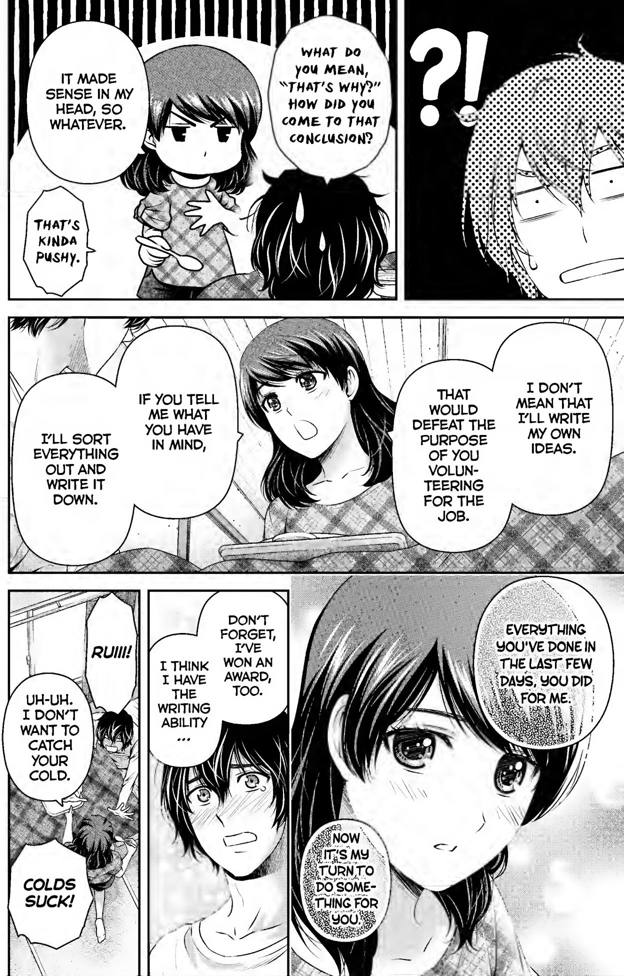

I'M SO SORRY, NATSUO.
I LOVE YOU ...!

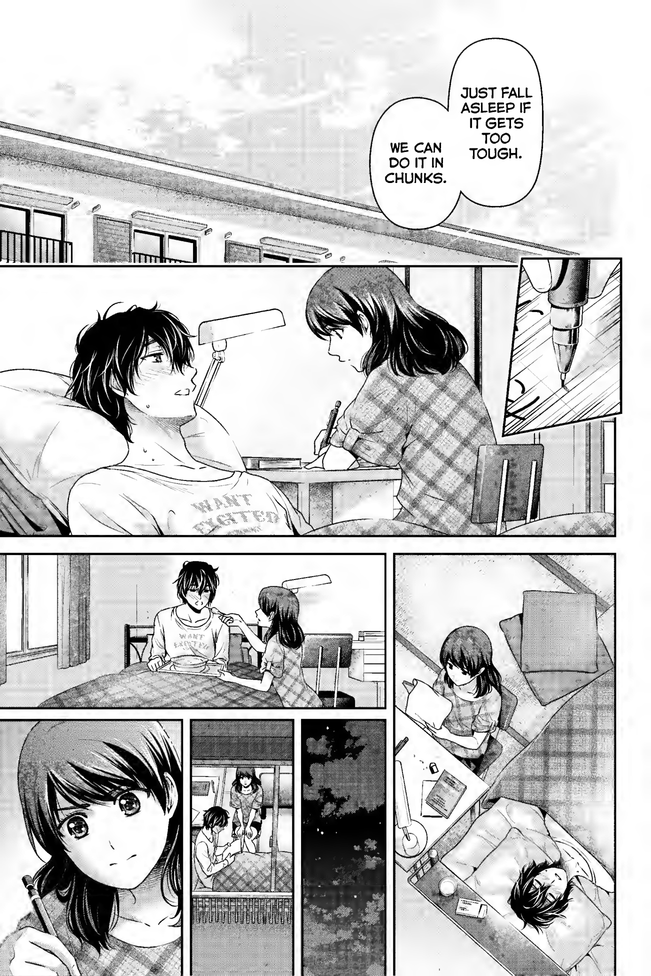

...
HUH?
WHERE AM I?
I WENT TO RUI'S WORK, THEN...
OH!
YOU'RE UP.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I MADE SOME RICE PORRIDGE. CAN YOU EAT?
RUI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
カチッ CHIK
I TOOK THE DAY OFF WORK.
IT'S MY FAULT YOU COLLAPSED. I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
YOU PASSED OUT AT THE RESTAURANT.
YOU WERE SOAKING WET WHEN I FOUND YOU. YOU MUST'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE BEFORE THE RAIN STARTED, RIGHT? WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING SO STUPID?
WELL... I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN YOU WERE GETTING OFF.
I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, SO, Y'KNOW...

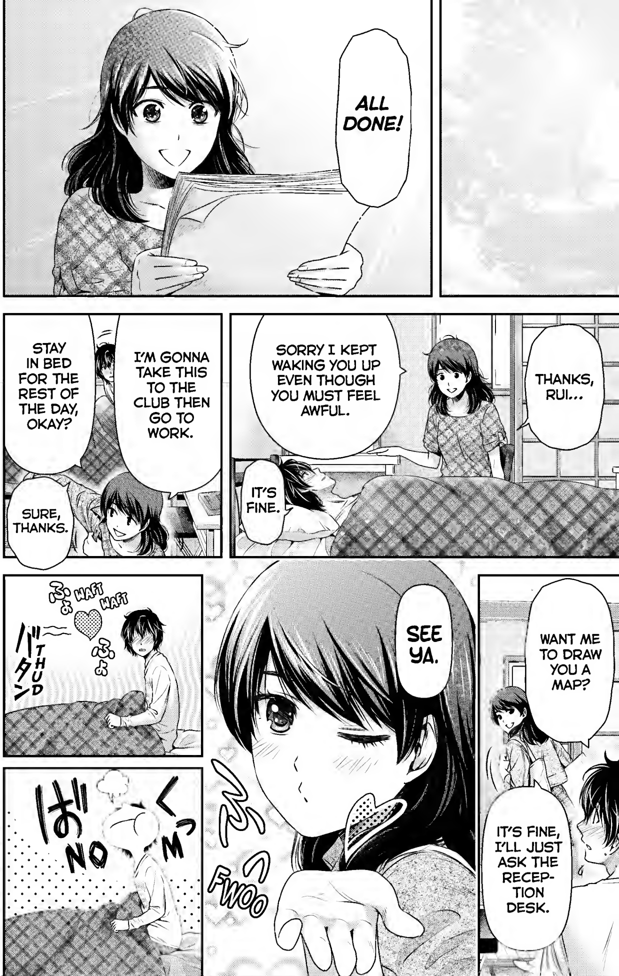

W-
WELL,
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT...
...BUT NO MORE DUMB STUNTS LIKE THAT, OKAY?!
WHAT IF YOU GOT PNEUMONIA?!
O-OKAY, SORRY...
YOU WERE PRETTY FEVERISH LAST NIGHT.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
MMM...
MY HEAD HURTS.
YOUR FACE IS STILL RED.
LET ME CHECK.
ぴと
TAP
YEAH, YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER.
STAY IN BED TODAY.
HERE'S SOME PORRIDGE.
I'M NOT REALLY HUNGRY...
NO BUTS. YOU HAVE TO EAT.
YOU DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?

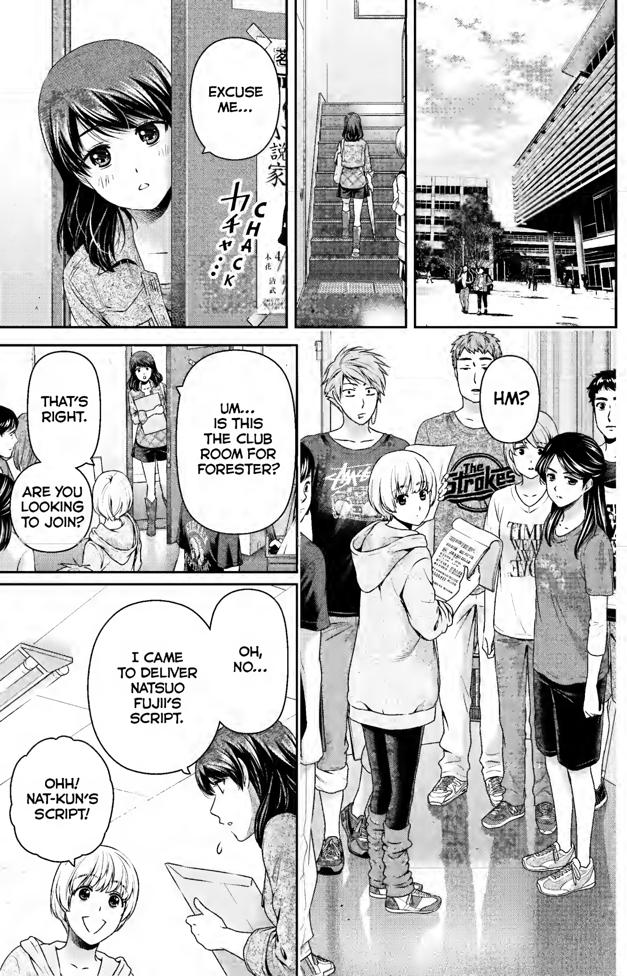

I PUT EGGS AND BONITO FLAKES IN IT TO MAKE IT EASY ON YOUR STOMACH.
IT SMELLS GREAT...
YUM.
THAT'LL BE 10,000 YEN*.
!
OR A KISS.
I'LL PAY WITH A KISS, PLEASE.
TOMORROW...
I DIDN'T TAKE THE DAY OFF JUST SO I COULD TAKE CARE OF YOU.
HUH?
YOU KEPT VISITING ME AT WORK EVEN THOUGH THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR SCRIPT'S COMING UP, RIGHT?
ERG...
KEH ゲホ KEH ゲホ
ゴホッ KOF
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN MOMO TOLD ME.
WAIT... IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS WRITING THE SCRIPT HALF-HEARTEDLY.
I WAS JUST MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY,
I'LL WRITE IT FOR YOU!

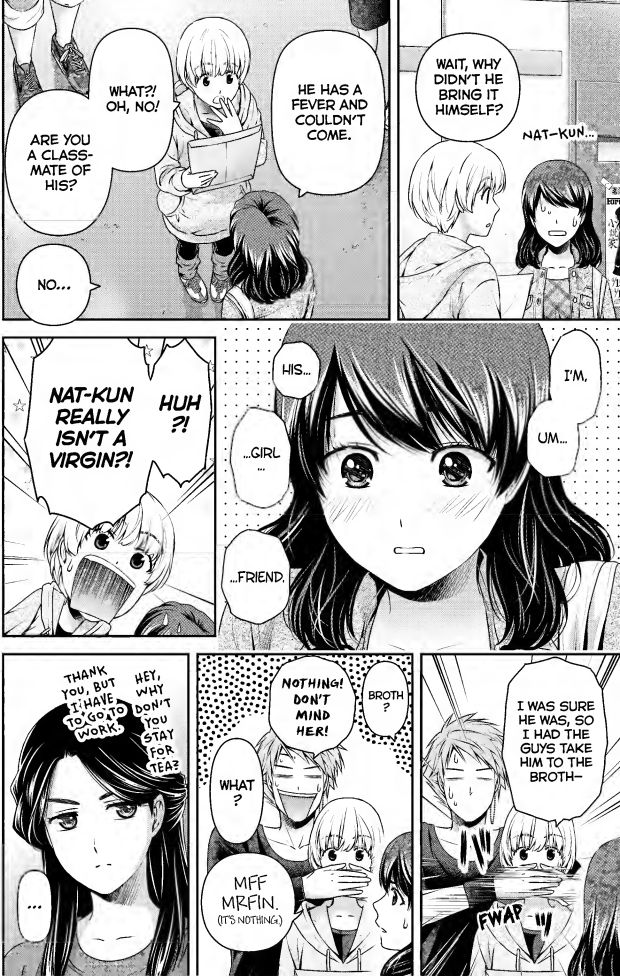
*APPROX. 100 USD.

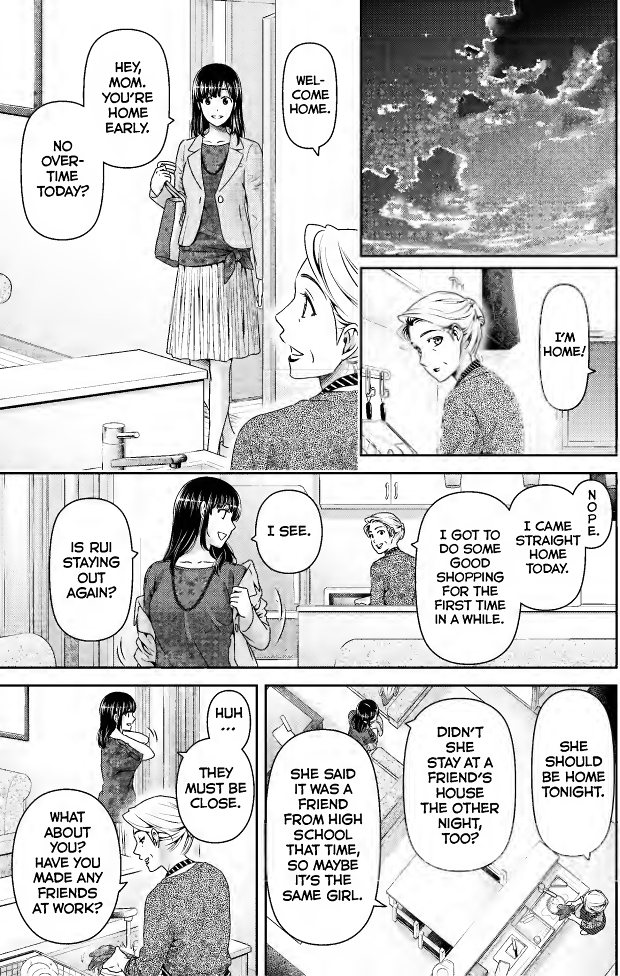

?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT'S WHY?" HOW DID YOU COME TO THAT CONCLUSION?
IT MADE SENSE IN MY HEAD, SO WHATEVER.
THAT'S KINDA PUSHY.
I DON'T MEAN THAT I'LL WRITE MY OWN IDEAS.
THAT WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF YOU VOLUNTEERING FOR THE JOB.
IF YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND,
I'LL SORT EVERYTHING OUT AND WRITE IT DOWN.
EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, YOU DID FOR ME.
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU.
DON'T FORGET, I'VE WON AN AWARD, TOO.
I THINK I HAVE THE WRITING ABILITY ...
RUIII!
UH-UH. I DON'T WANT TO CATCH YOUR COLD.
COLDS SUCK!

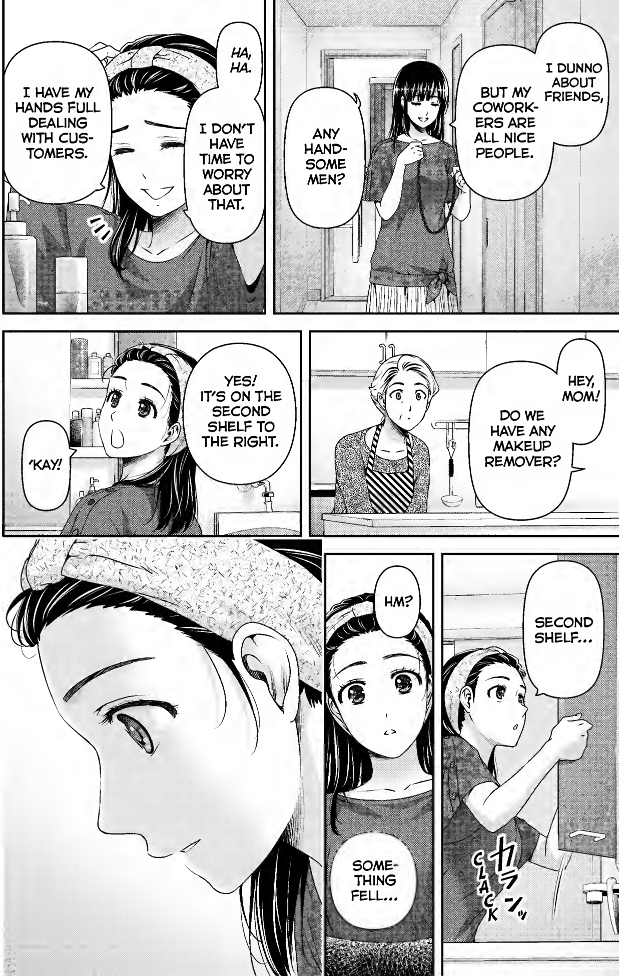

JUST FALL ASLEEP IF IT GETS TOO TOUGH.
WE CAN DO IT IN CHUNKS.
WANT EXCITED

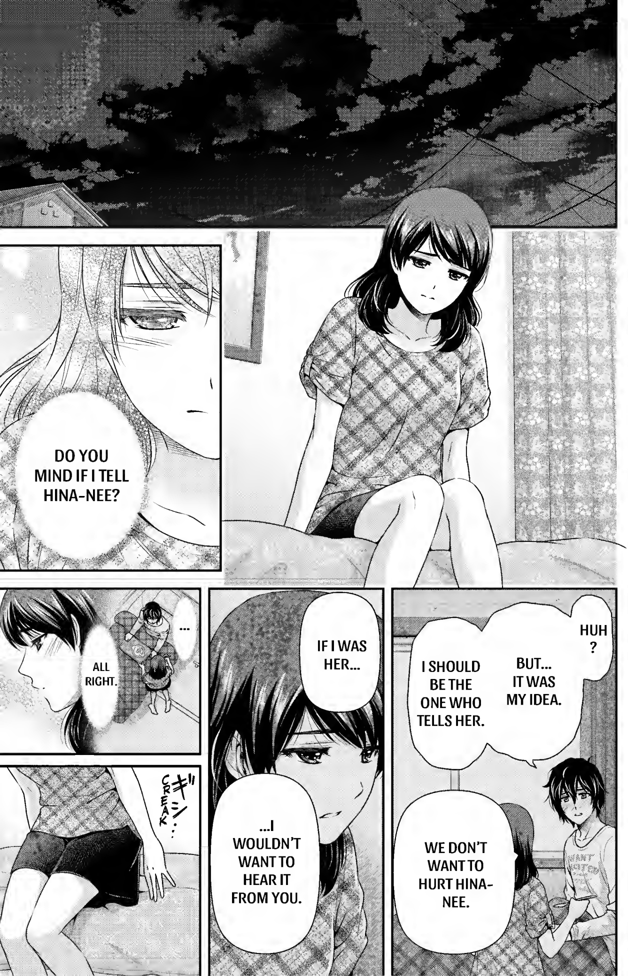

ALL DONE!
THANKS, RUI...
SORRY I KEPT WAKING YOU UP EVEN THOUGH YOU MUST FEEL AWFUL.
IT'S FINE.
I'M GONNA TAKE THIS TO THE CLUB THEN GO TO WORK.
STAY IN BED FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, OKAY?
SURE, THANKS.
WANT ME TO DRAW YOU A MAP?
IT'S FINE, I'LL JUST ASK THE RECEPTION DESK.
SEE YA.
ふ～ FWOO
ふよ WAFT
ふよ WAFT
バタン THUD
くっ M
ぼ NO

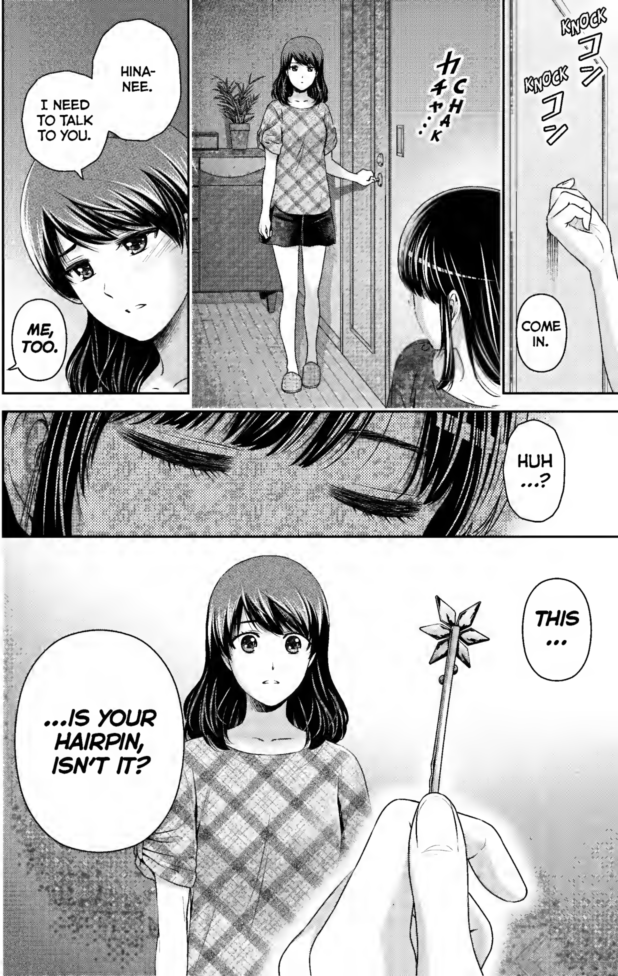

EXCUSE ME...
カチャ…
CHACK
小説家
HM?
UM... IS THIS THE CLUB ROOM FOR FORESTER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
ARE YOU LOOKING TO JOIN?
The Strokes
OH, NO...
I CAME TO DELIVER NATSUO FUJII'S SCRIPT.
OHH! NAT-KUN'S SCRIPT!


WAIT, WHY DIDN'T HE BRING IT HIMSELF?
NAT-KUN...
HE HAS A FEVER AND COULDN'T COME.
WHAT?! OH, NO!
ARE YOU A CLASSMATE OF HIS?
NO...
I'M,
UM...
HIS...
...GIRL...
...FRIEND.
HUH?!
NAT-KUN REALLY ISN'T A VIRGIN?!
I WAS SURE HE WAS, SO I HAD THE GUYS TAKE HIM TO THE BROTH—
FWAP
BROTH?
NOTHING! DON'T MIND HER!
WHAT?
MFF MRFIN. (IT'S NOTHING.)
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR TEA?
THANK YOU, BUT I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
...

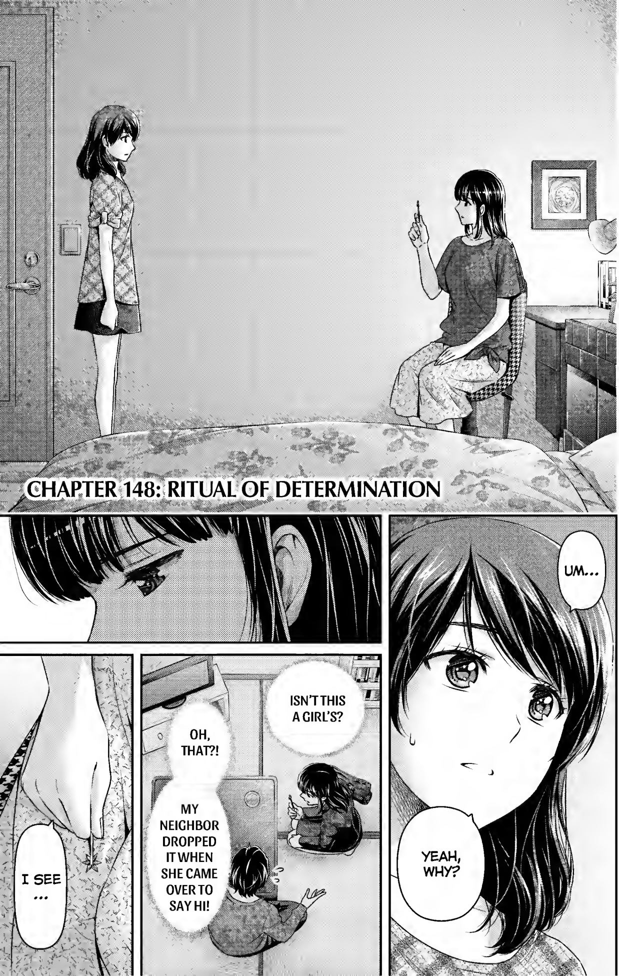

I'M HOME!
WELCOME HOME.
HEY, MOM. YOU'RE HOME EARLY.
NO OVERTIME TODAY?
NOPE.
I CAME STRAIGHT HOME TODAY.
I GOT TO DO SOME GOOD SHOPPING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.
I SEE.
IS RUI STAYING OUT AGAIN?
SHE SHOULD BE HOME TONIGHT.
DIDN'T SHE STAY AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE THE OTHER NIGHT, TOO?
SHE SAID IT WAS A FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAT TIME, SO MAYBE IT'S THE SAME GIRL.
HUH...
THEY MUST BE CLOSE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? HAVE YOU MADE ANY FRIENDS AT WORK?

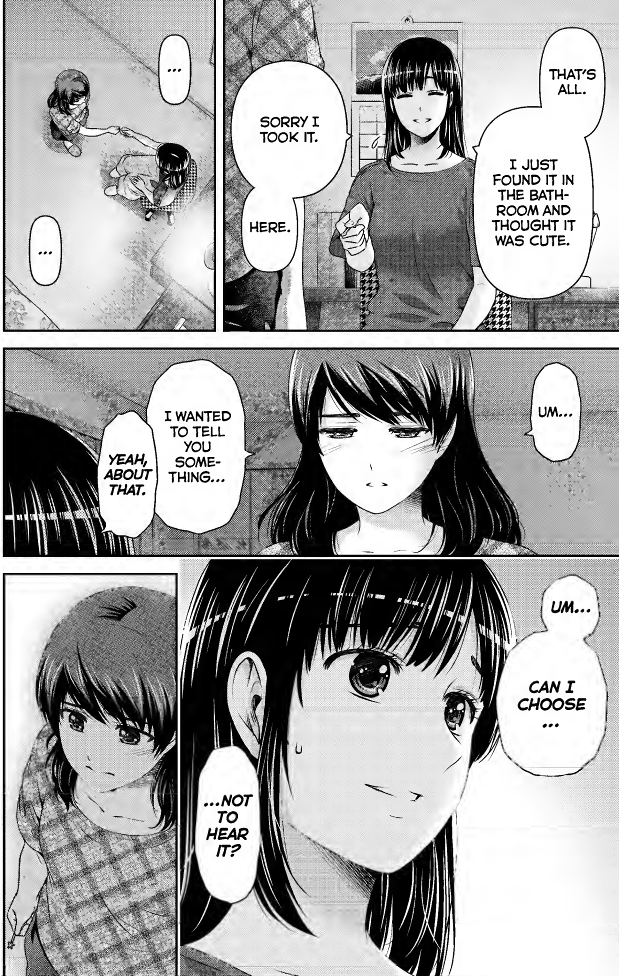

I DUNNO ABOUT FRIENDS,
BUT MY COWORKERS ARE ALL NICE PEOPLE.
ANY HANDSOME MEN?
HA, HA.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I HAVE MY HANDS FULL DEALING WITH CUSTOMERS.
HEY, MOM!
DO WE HAVE ANY MAKEUP REMOVER?
YES! IT'S ON THE SECOND SHELF TO THE RIGHT.
'KAY!
SECOND SHELF...
CLACK
カラーンッ
HM?
SOMETHING FELL...

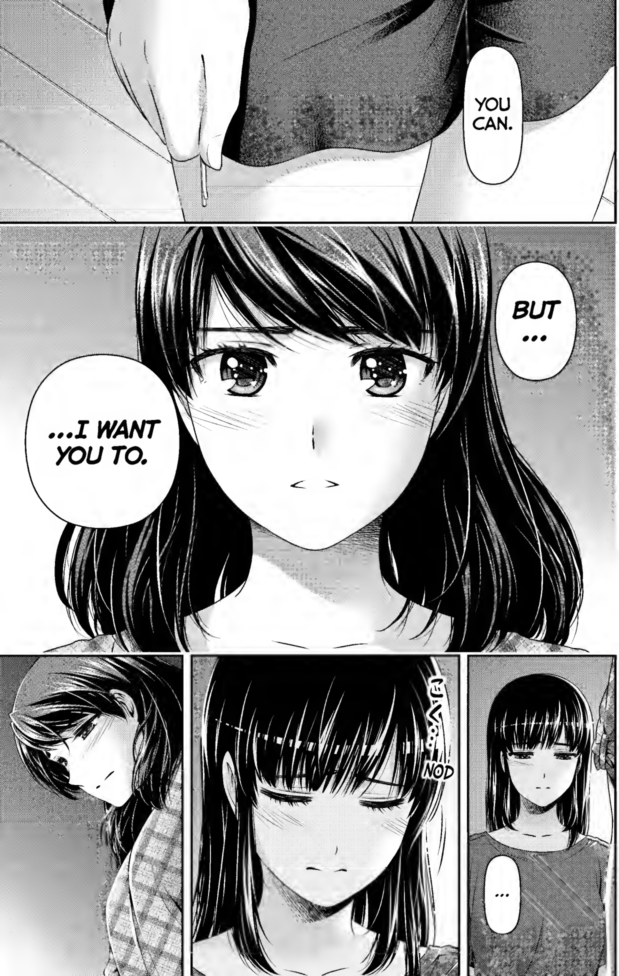

DO YOU MIND IF I TELL HINA-NEE?
HUH?
BUT... IT WAS MY IDEA.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO TELLS HER.
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT HINA-NEE.
IF I WAS HER...
...I WOULDN'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.
...
ALL RIGHT.
ギシ…
CREAK...

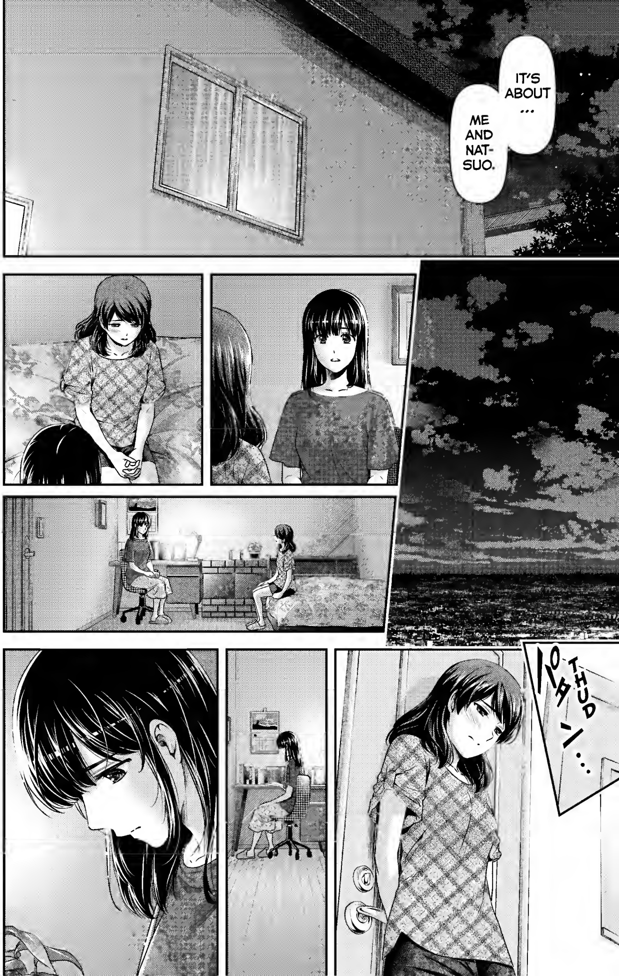

KNOCK コン
KNOCK コン
COME IN.
カチャ… CHAK
HINA-NEE.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
ME, TOO.
HUH …?
THIS …
…IS YOUR HAIRPIN, ISN'T IT?

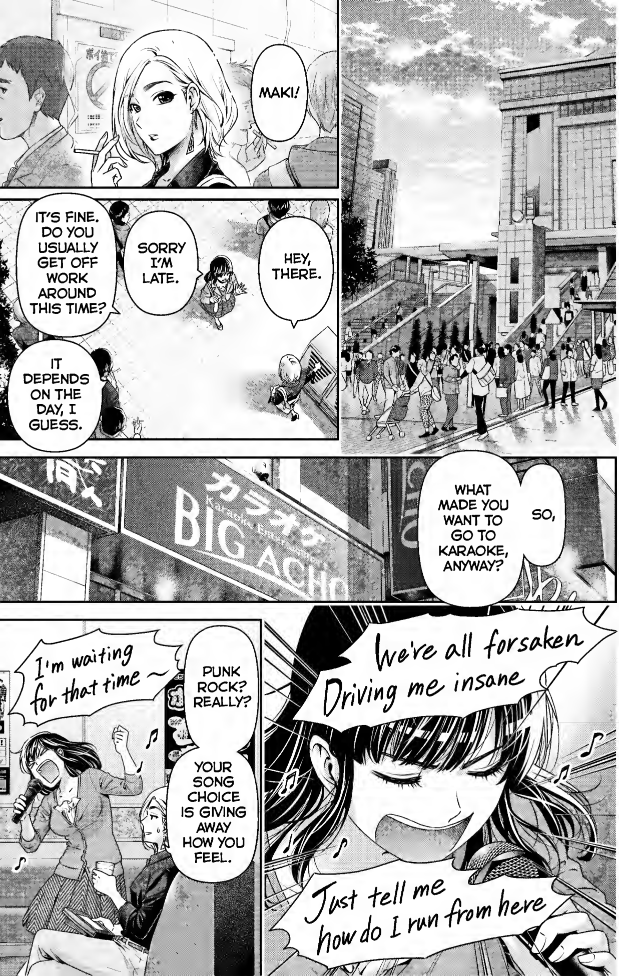
CHAPTER 148: RITUAL OF DETERMINATION

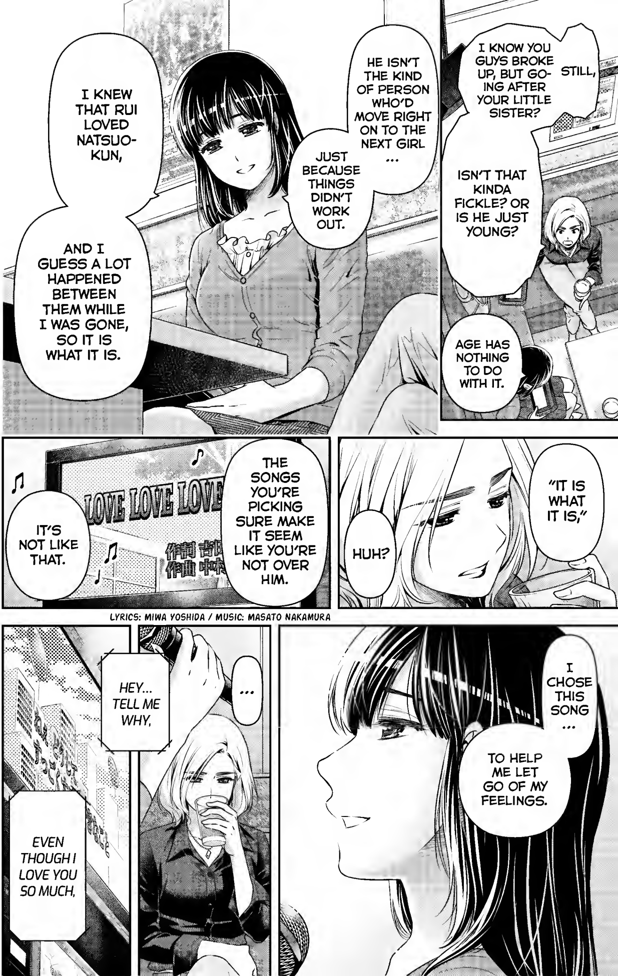

UM...
YEAH, WHY?
ISN'T THIS A GIRL'S?
OH, THAT?!
MY NEIGHBOR DROPPED IT WHEN SHE CAME OVER TO SAY HI!
I SEE ...


THAT'S ALL.
I JUST FOUND IT IN THE BATHROOM AND THOUGHT IT WAS CUTE.
SORRY I TOOK IT.
HERE.
...
...
UM...
I WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...
YEAH, ABOUT THAT.
UM...
CAN I CHOOSE...
...NOT TO HEAR IT?

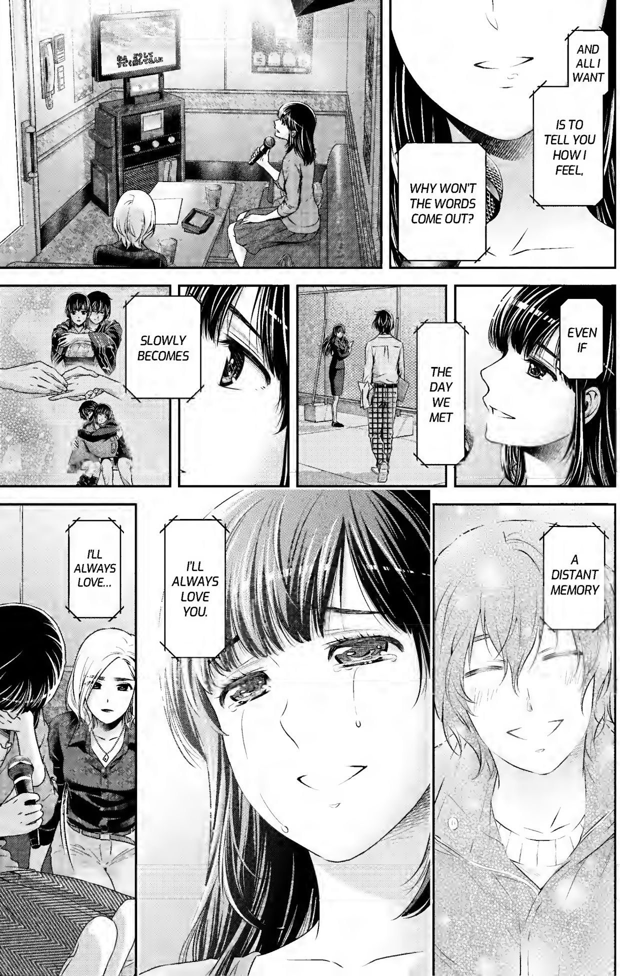

YOU CAN.
BUT ...
...I WANT YOU TO.
...
こく…
NOD

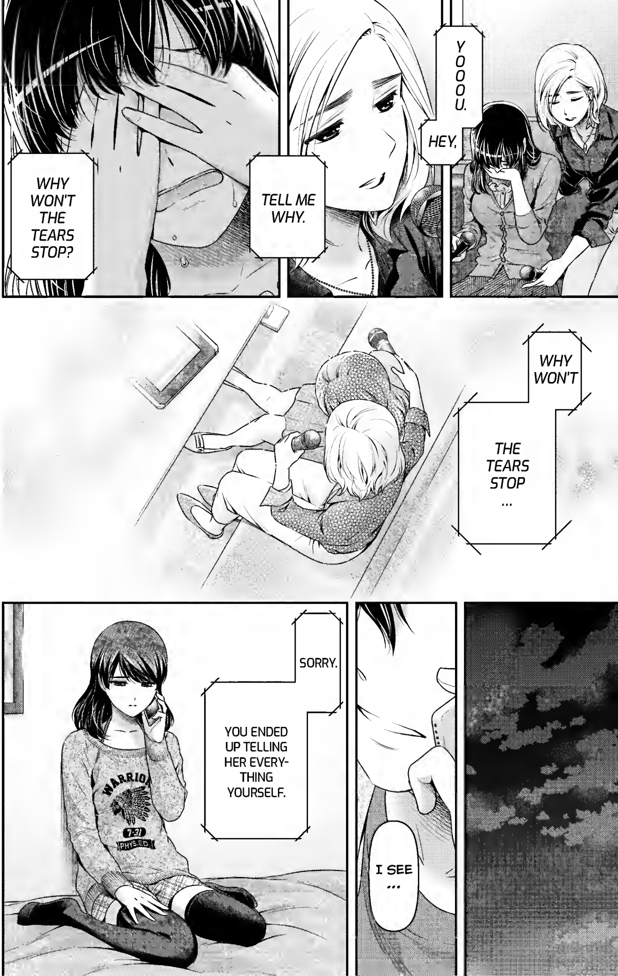

IT'S ABOUT ...
ME AND NATSUO.
パタン…
THUD

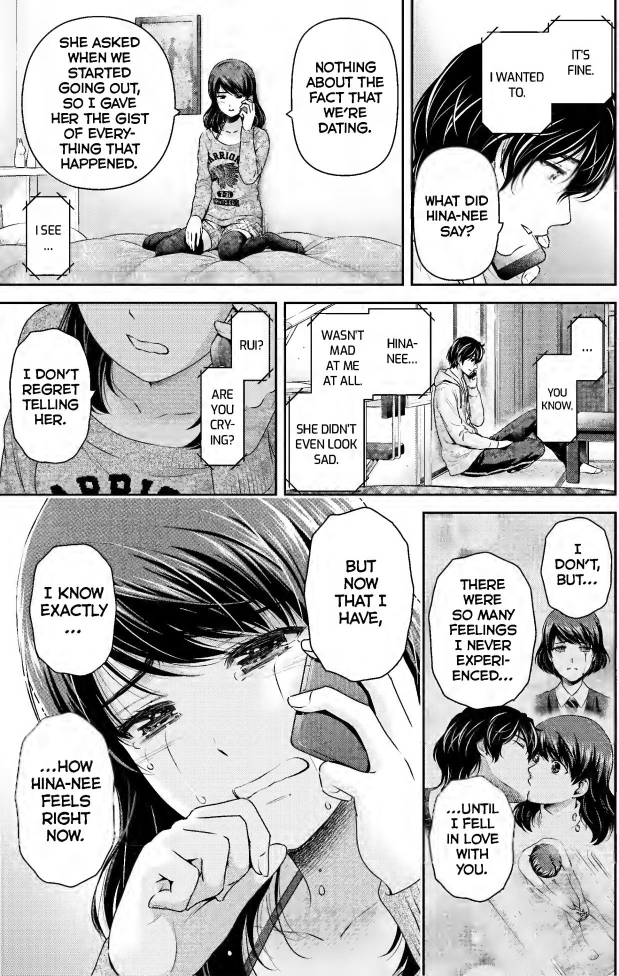

MAKI!
HEY, THERE.
SORRY I'M LATE.
IT'S FINE. DO YOU USUALLY GET OFF WORK AROUND THIS TIME?
IT DEPENDS ON THE DAY, I GUESS.
カラオケ
Karaoke Entertainment
BIG ACHO
SO,
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GO TO KARAOKE, ANYWAY?
We're all forsaken
Driving me insane
Just tell me how do I run from here
I'm waiting for that time~
PUNK ROCK? REALLY?
YOUR SONG CHOICE IS GIVING AWAY HOW YOU FEEL.

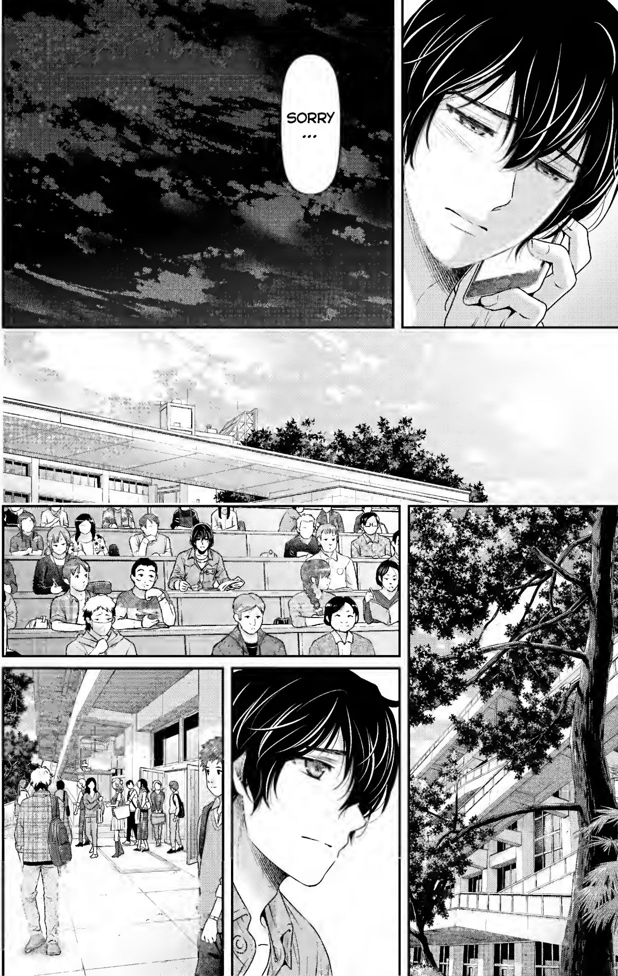

I KNOW YOU GUYS BROKE UP, BUT GOING AFTER YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
STILL,
ISN'T THAT KINDA FICKLE? OR IS HE JUST YOUNG?
AGE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
HE ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D MOVE RIGHT ON TO THE NEXT GIRL ...
JUST BECAUSE THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT.
I KNEW THAT RUI LOVED NATSUO-KUN,
AND I GUESS A LOT HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM WHILE I WAS GONE, SO IT IS WHAT IT IS.
"IT IS WHAT IT IS,"
HUH?
THE SONGS YOU'RE PICKING SURE MAKE IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE NOT OVER HIM.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
LOVE LOVE LOVE
作詞 吉田
作曲 中村
I CHOSE THIS SONG ...
TO HELP ME LET GO OF MY FEELINGS.
...
HEY... TELL ME WHY,
EVEN THOUGH I LOVE YOU SO MUCH,

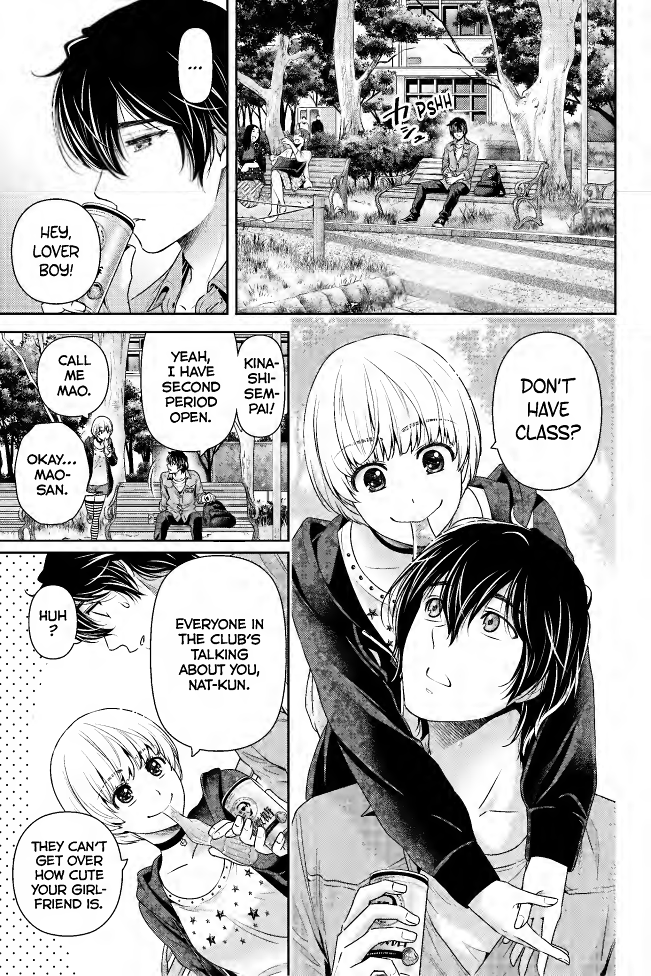
LYRICS: MIWA YOSHIDA / MUSIC: MASATO NAKAMURA

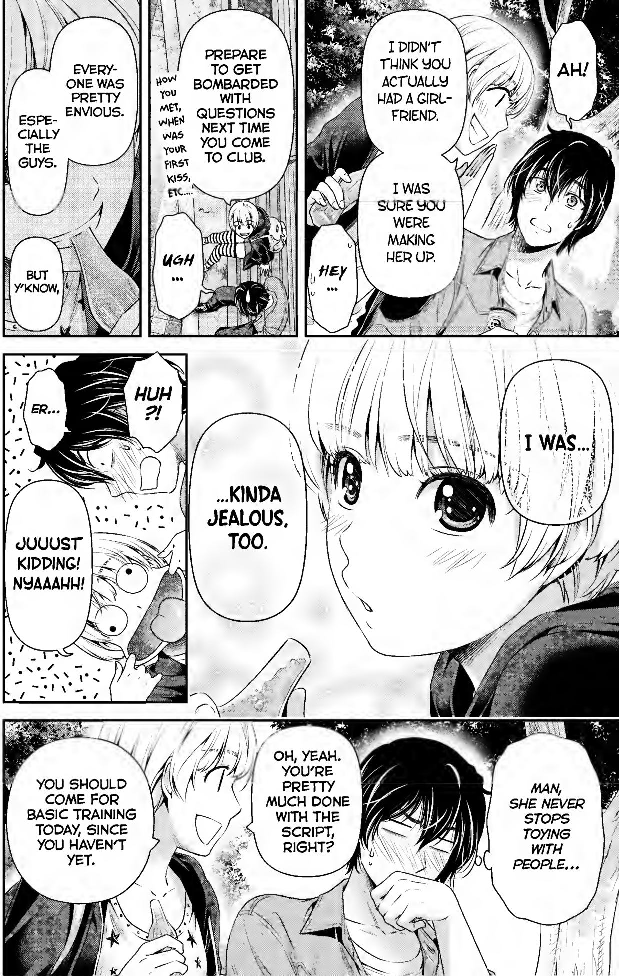

AND ALL I WANT
IS TO TELL YOU HOW I FEEL,
WHY WON'T THE WORDS COME OUT?
ねぇ どうして すごく愛してる人に
EVEN IF
THE DAY WE MET
SLOWLY BECOMES
A DISTANT MEMORY
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE...

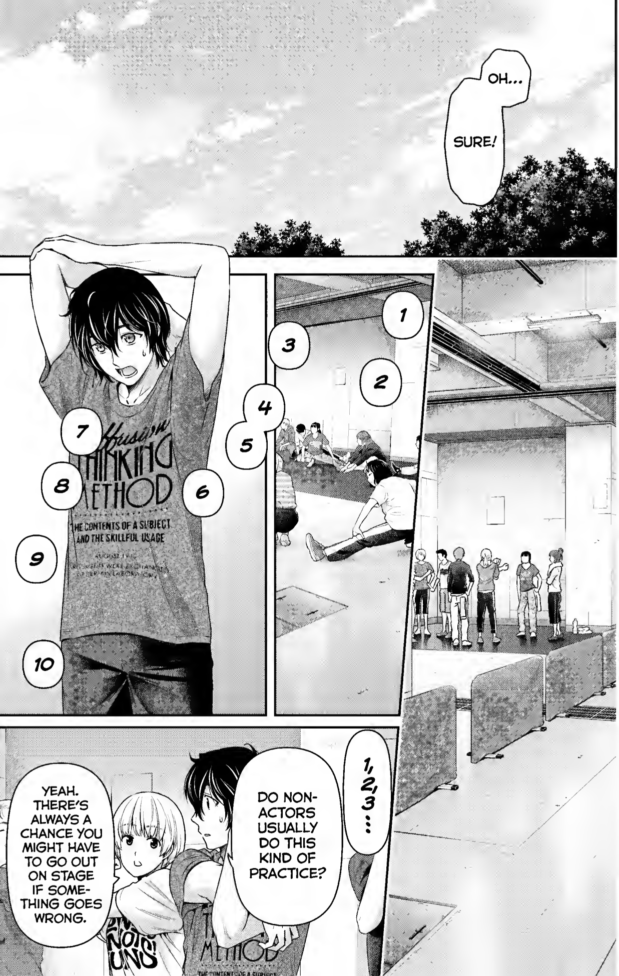

HEY,
YOOOOU.
TELL ME WHY.
WHY WON'T THE TEARS STOP?
WHY WON'T
THE TEARS STOP ...
I SEE ...
SORRY.
YOU ENDED UP TELLING HER EVERYTHING YOURSELF.
WARRIOR
7-31
PHYS.ED.

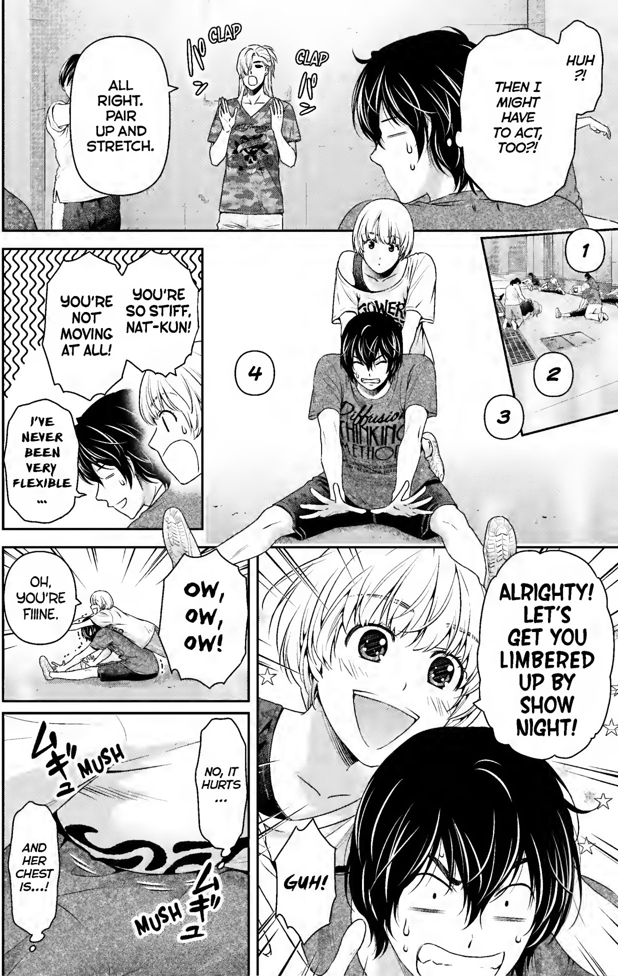

IT'S FINE.
I WANTED TO.
WHAT DID HINA-NEE SAY?
NOTHING ABOUT THE FACT THAT WE'RE DATING.
SHE ASKED WHEN WE STARTED GOING OUT, SO I GAVE HER THE GIST OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.
I SEE ...
...
YOU KNOW,
HINA-NEE...
WASN'T MAD AT ME AT ALL.
SHE DIDN'T EVEN LOOK SAD.
RUI?
ARE YOU CRYING?
I DON'T REGRET TELLING HER.
I DON'T, BUT...
THERE WERE SO MANY FEELINGS I NEVER EXPERIENCED...
...UNTIL I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
BUT NOW THAT I HAVE,
I KNOW EXACTLY ...
...HOW HINA-NEE FEELS RIGHT NOW.

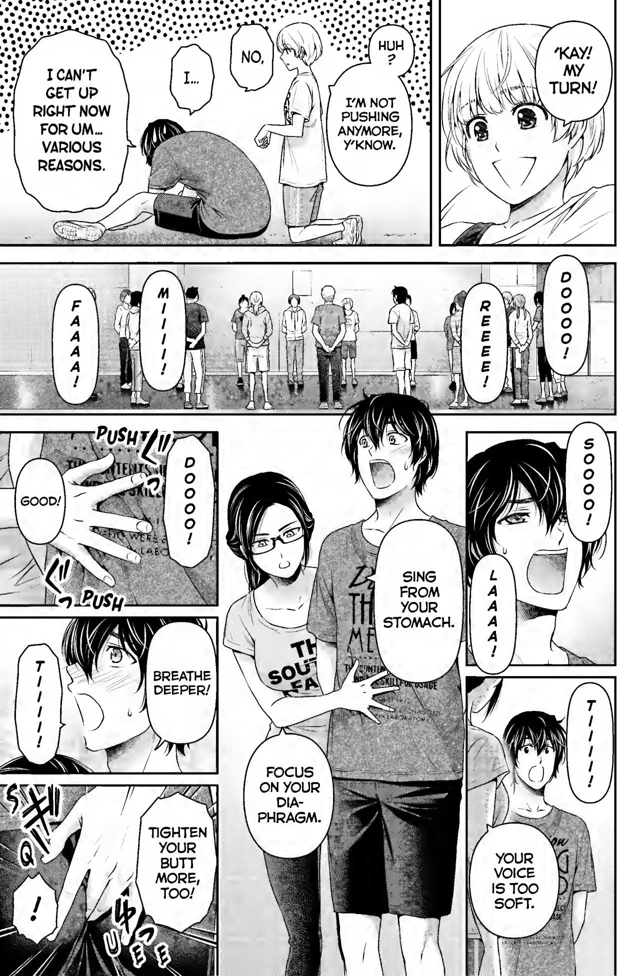

SORRY
...

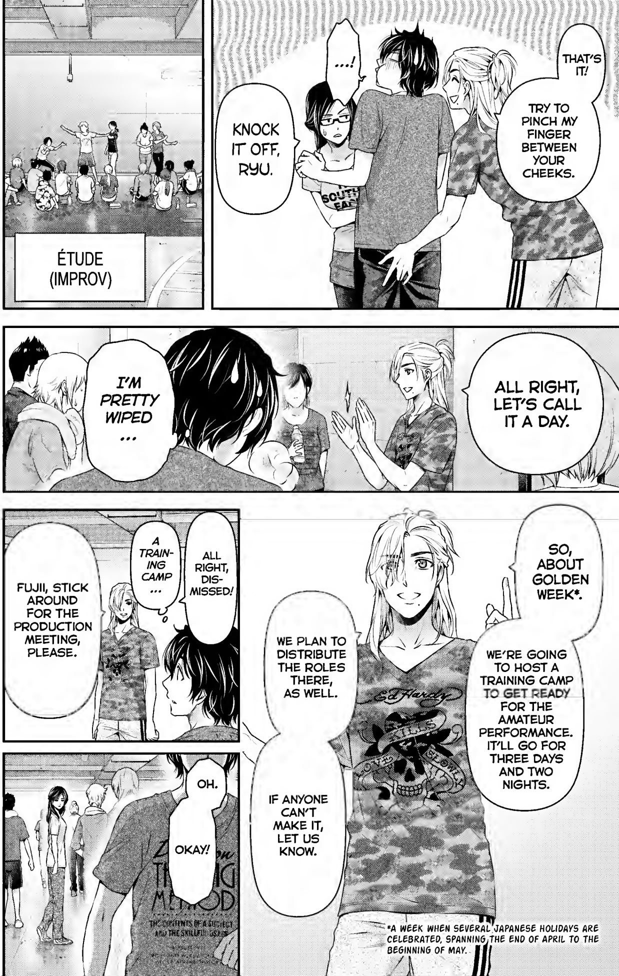

カシュ
PSHH
...
HEY, LOVER BOY!
DON'T HAVE CLASS?
KINASHI-SEMPAI!
YEAH, I HAVE SECOND PERIOD OPEN.
CALL ME MAO.
OKAY... MAO-SAN.
HUH?
EVERYONE IN THE CLUB'S TALKING ABOUT YOU, NAT-KUN.
THEY CAN'T GET OVER HOW CUTE YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS.


AH!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU ACTUALLY HAD A GIRLFRIEND.
I WAS SURE YOU WERE MAKING HER UP.
HEY ...
PREPARE TO GET BOMBARDED WITH QUESTIONS NEXT TIME YOU COME TO CLUB.
HOW YOU MET, WHEN WAS YOUR FIRST KISS, ETC....
UGH ...
EVERYONE WAS PRETTY ENVIOUS.
ESPECIALLY THE GUYS.
BUT Y'KNOW,
I WAS...
...KINDA JEALOUS, TOO.
HUH ?!
ER...
JUUUST KIDDING! NYAAAHH!
MAN, SHE NEVER STOPS TOYING WITH PEOPLE...
OH, YEAH. YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH DONE WITH THE SCRIPT, RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD COME FOR BASIC TRAINING TODAY, SINCE YOU HAVEN'T YET.

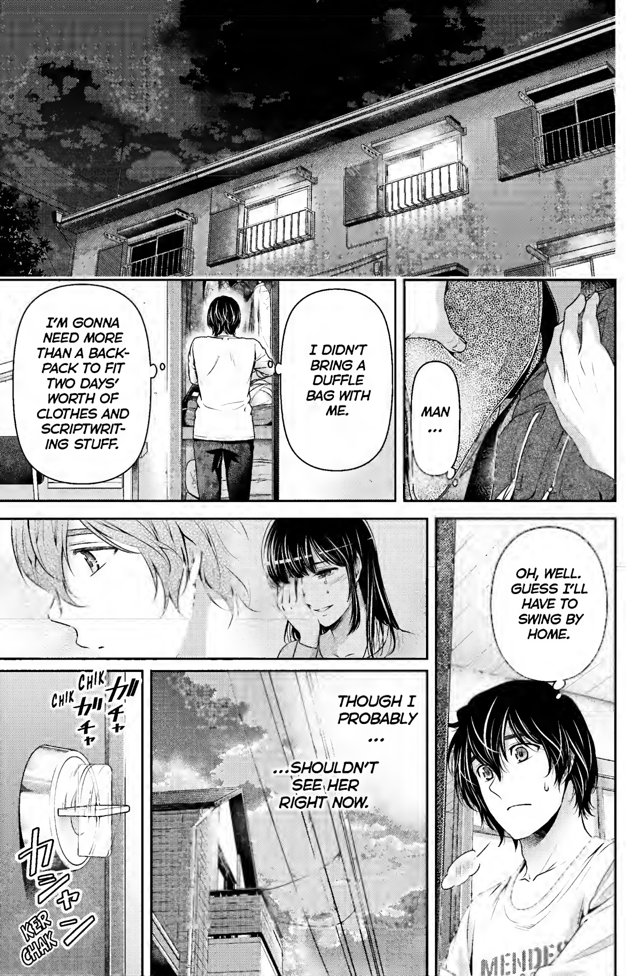

OH...
SURE!
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
THINKING METHOD
THE CONTENTS OF A SUBJECT AND THE SKILLFUL USAGE
1, 2, 3...
DO NON-ACTORS USUALLY DO THIS KIND OF PRACTICE?
YEAH. THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE YOU MIGHT HAVE TO GO OUT ON STAGE IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

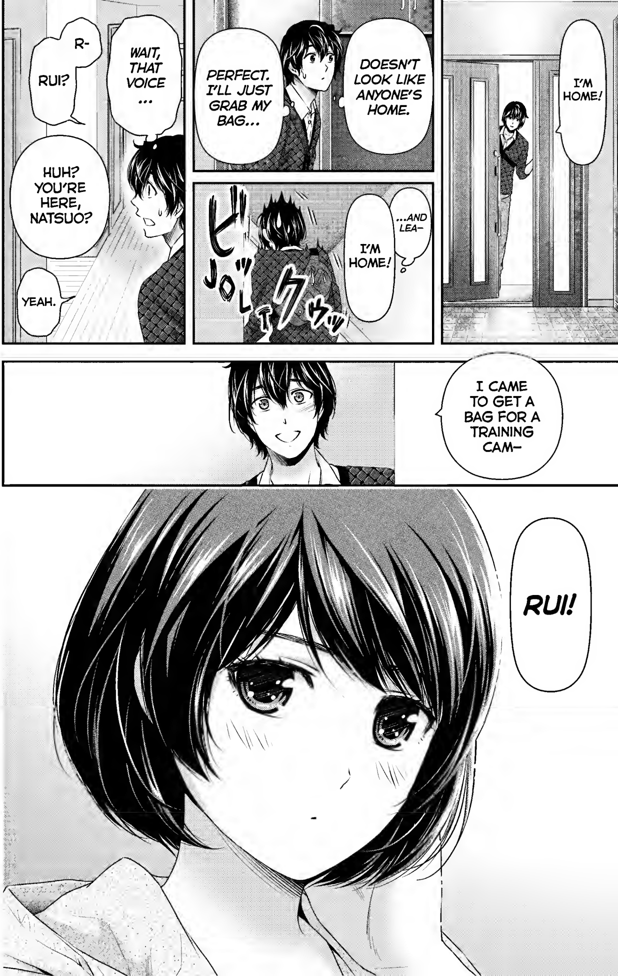

HUH?!
THEN I MIGHT HAVE TO ACT, TOO?!
パ CLAP
パ CLAP
ALL RIGHT. PAIR UP AND STRETCH.
1
2
3
4
YOU'RE SO STIFF, NAT-KUN!
YOU'RE NOT MOVING AT ALL!
I'VE NEVER BEEN VERY FLEXIBLE...
GOWER
Diffusion THINKING METHOD
ALRIGHTY! LET'S GET YOU LIMBERED UP BY SHOW NIGHT!
GUH!
OW, OW, OW!
OH, YOU'RE FIIINE.
NO, IT HURTS...
ムギュ MUSH
AND HER CHEST IS...!
ムギュ MUSH


'KAY! MY TURN!
HUH?
I'M NOT PUSHING ANYMORE, Y'KNOW.
NO,
I...
I CAN'T GET UP RIGHT NOW FOR UM... VARIOUS REASONS.
DOOOOO!
REEEEE!
MIIIII!
FAAAAA!
SOOOOO!
LAAAAA!
SING FROM YOUR STOMACH.
PUSH
DOOOOO!
GOOD!
PUSH
TIIIII!
YOUR VOICE IS TOO SOFT.
FOCUS ON YOUR DIA-PHRAGM.
BREATHE DEEPER!
TIIIII!
TIGHTEN YOUR BUTT MORE, TOO!
SQ
!
UEEE

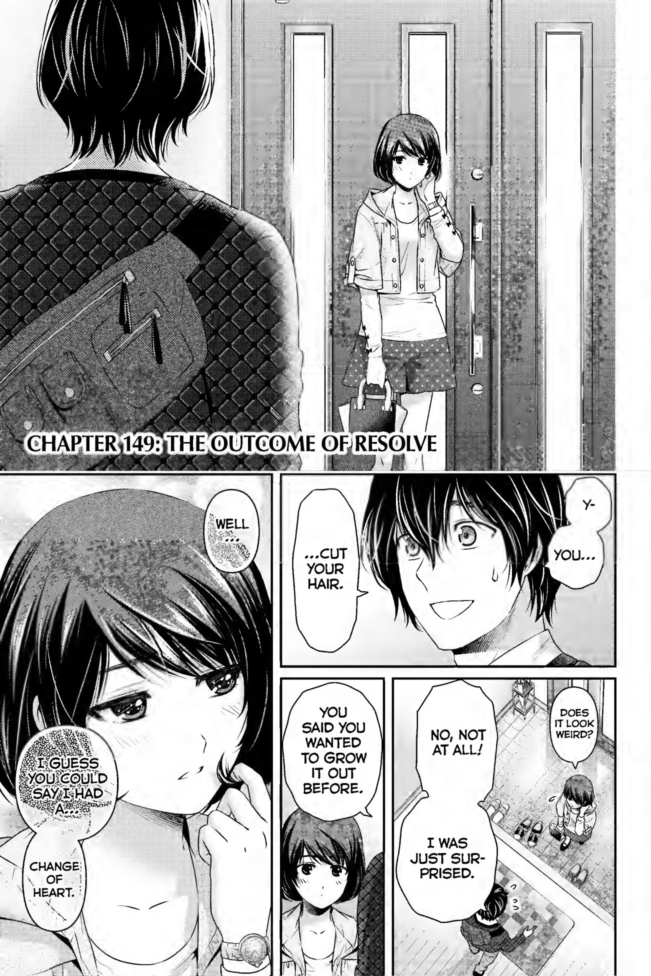

THAT'S IT!
TRY TO PINCH MY FINGER BETWEEN YOUR CHEEKS.
...!
KNOCK IT OFF, RYU.
ÉTUDE (IMPROV)
ALL RIGHT, LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
I'M PRETTY WIPED...
SO, ABOUT GOLDEN WEEK*.
WE'RE GOING TO HOST A TRAINING CAMP TO GET READY FOR THE AMATEUR PERFORMANCE. IT'LL GO FOR THREE DAYS AND TWO NIGHTS.
WE PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE THE ROLES THERE, AS WELL.
IF ANYONE CAN'T MAKE IT, LET US KNOW.
ALL RIGHT, DISMISSED!
A TRAINING CAMP...
FUJII, STICK AROUND FOR THE PRODUCTION MEETING, PLEASE.
OH.
OKAY!

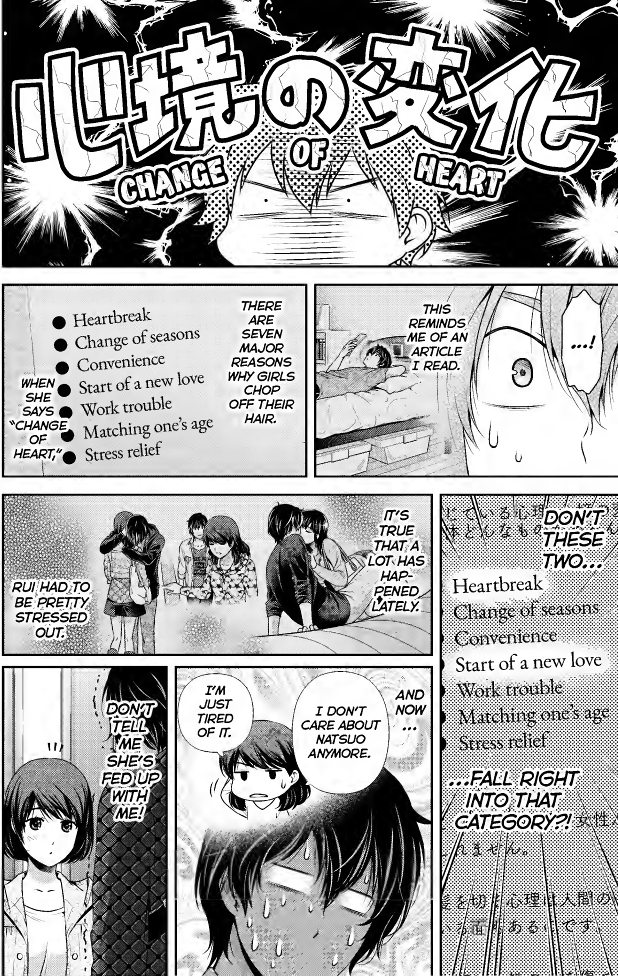
*A WEEK WHEN SEVERAL JAPANESE HOLIDAYS ARE CELEBRATED, SPANNING THE END OF APRIL TO THE BEGINNING OF MAY.

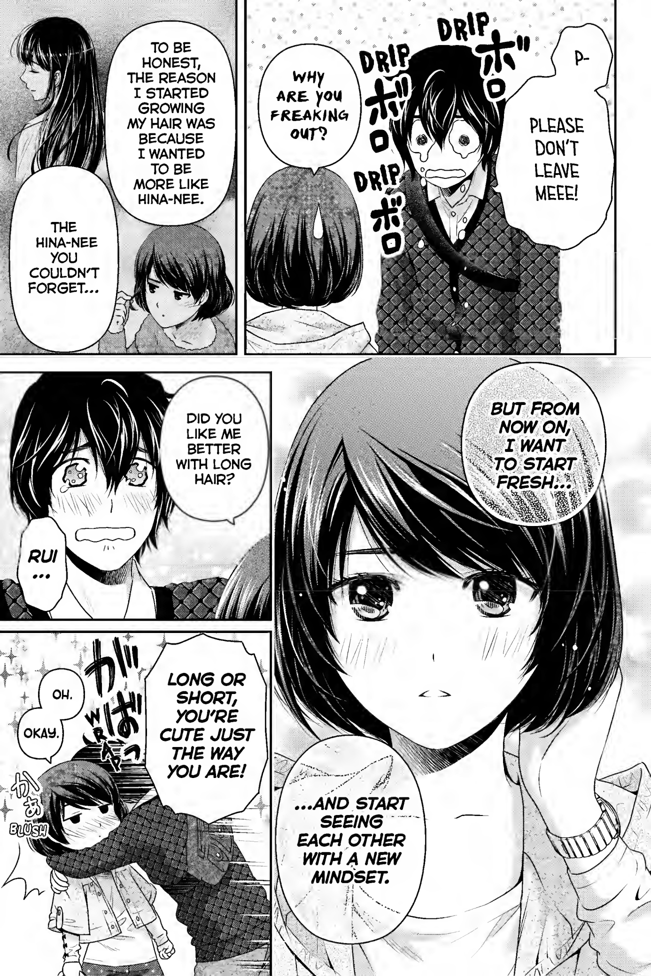

MAN...
I DIDN'T BRING A DUFFLE BAG WITH ME.
I'M GONNA NEED MORE THAN A BACKPACK TO FIT TWO DAYS' WORTH OF CLOTHES AND SCRIPTWRITING STUFF.
OH, WELL. GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SWING BY HOME.
THOUGH I PROBABLY...
...SHOULDN'T SEE HER RIGHT NOW.
ガチャ ガチャ
CHIK CHIK
カシャーン
KER CHAK
MENDES

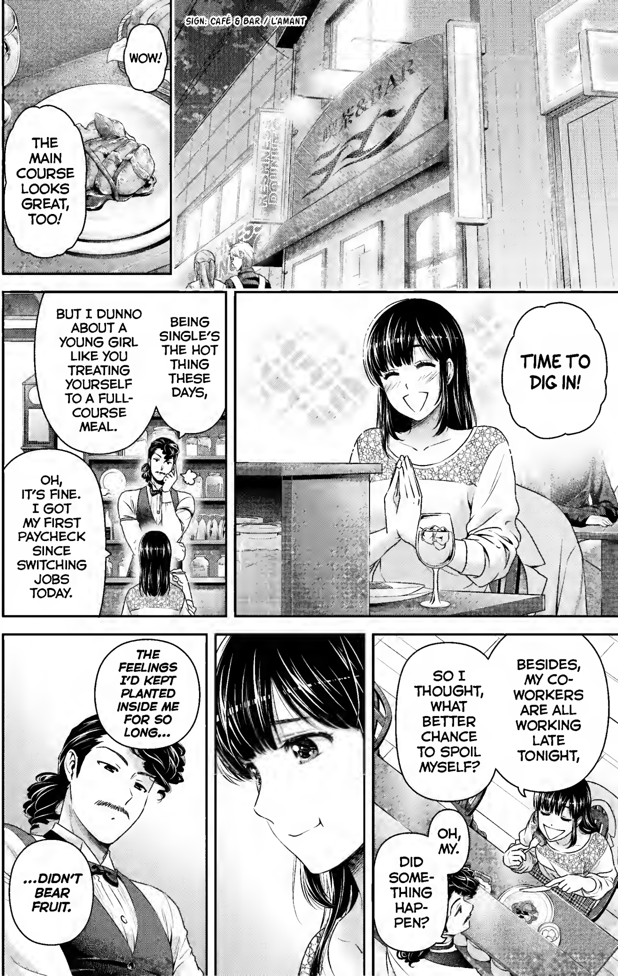

I'M HOME!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S HOME.
PERFECT. I'LL JUST GRAB MY BAG...
...AND LEA—
I'M HOME!
ビクゥッ
JOLT
WAIT, THAT VOICE...
R- RUI?
HUH? YOU'RE HERE, NATSUO?
YEAH.
I CAME TO GET A BAG FOR A TRAINING CAM—
RUI!

CHAPTER 149: THE OUTCOME OF RESOLVE

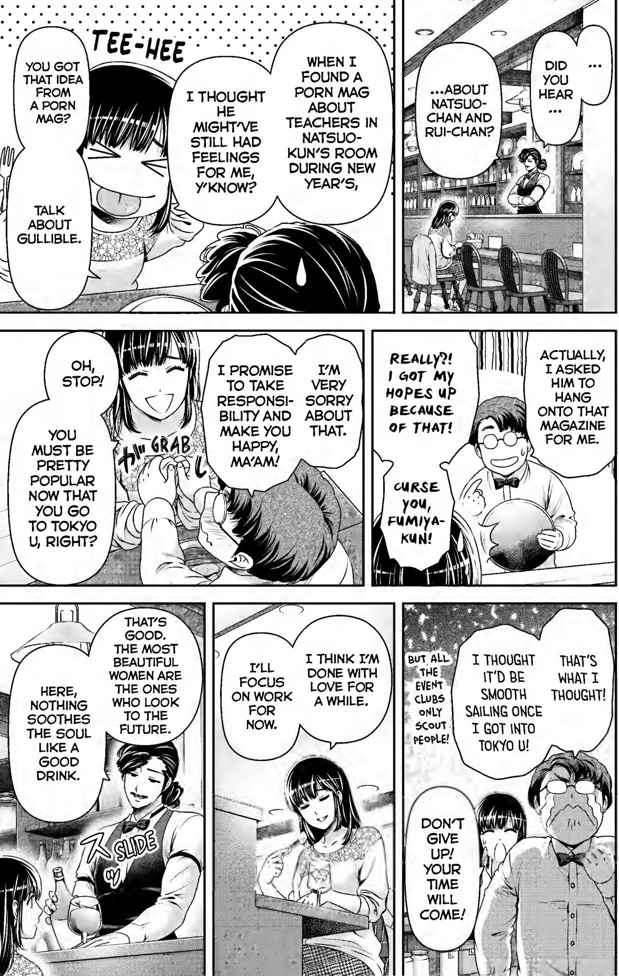

Y-
YOU...
...CUT YOUR HAIR.
DOES IT LOOK WEIRD?
NO, NOT AT ALL!
I WAS JUST SURPRISED.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GROW IT OUT BEFORE.
WELL...
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I HAD A...
CHANGE OF HEART.

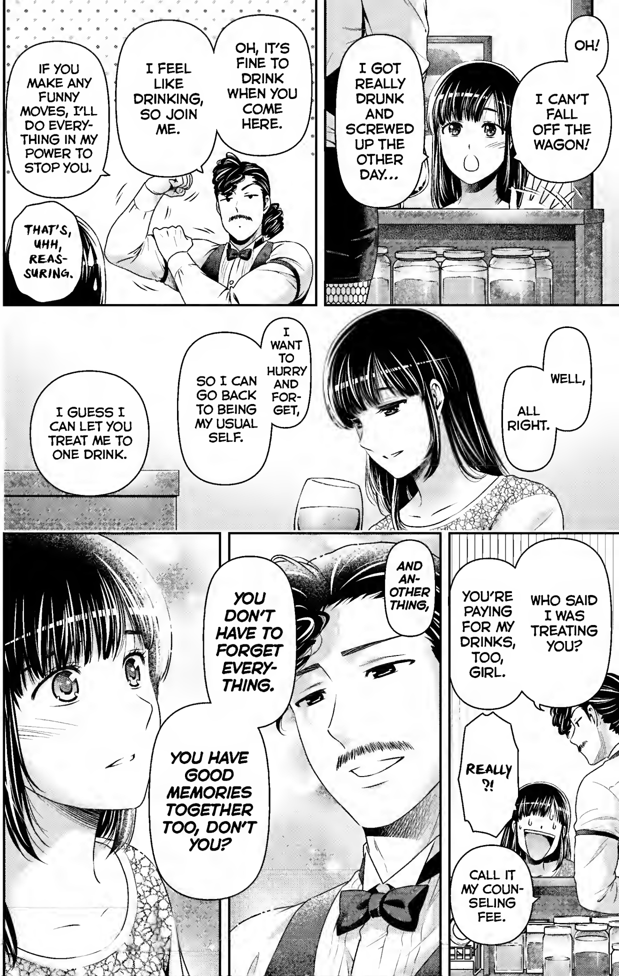

心境の変化
CHANGE OF HEART
...!
THIS REMINDS ME OF AN ARTICLE I READ.
THERE ARE SEVEN MAJOR REASONS WHY GIRLS CHOP OFF THEIR HAIR.
● Heartbreak
● Change of seasons
● Convenience
● Start of a new love
● Work trouble
● Matching one's age
● Stress relief
WHEN SHE SAYS "CHANGE OF HEART,"
DON'T THESE TWO...
Heartbreak
Change of seasons
Convenience
Start of a new love
Work trouble
Matching one's age
Stress relief
...FALL RIGHT INTO THAT CATEGORY?!
IT'S TRUE THAT A LOT HAS HAPPENED LATELY.
RUI HAD TO BE PRETTY STRESSED OUT.
AND NOW...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT NATSUO ANYMORE.
I'M JUST TIRED OF IT.
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S FED UP WITH ME!

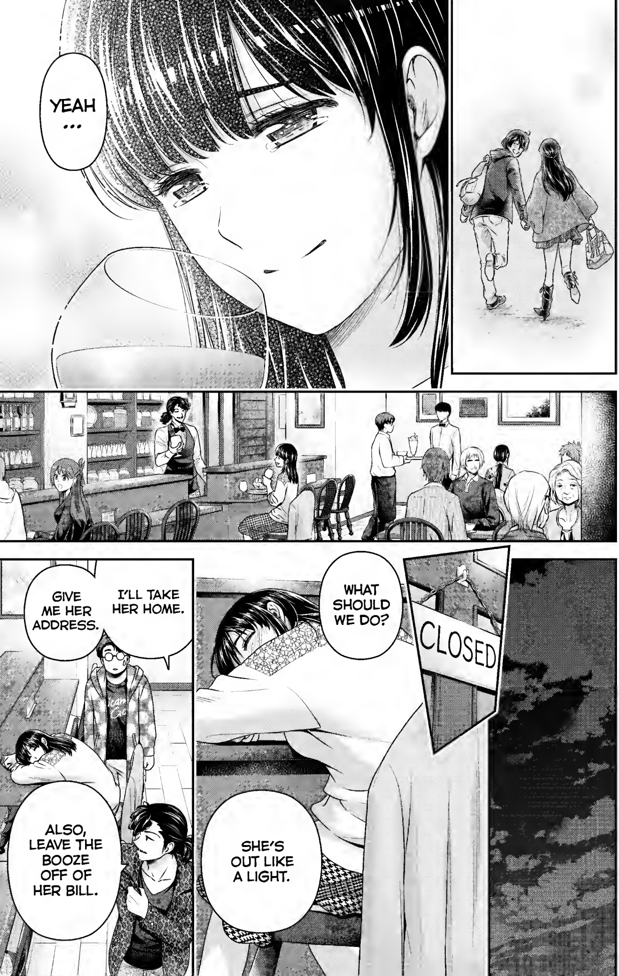

DRIP ボロ
DRIP ボロ
DRIP ボロ
P-
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE MEEE!
WHY ARE YOU FREAKING OUT?
TO BE HONEST, THE REASON I STARTED GROWING MY HAIR WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE MORE LIKE HINA-NEE.
THE HINA-NEE YOU COULDN'T FORGET...
BUT FROM NOW ON, I WANT TO START FRESH...
...AND START SEEING EACH OTHER WITH A NEW MINDSET.
DID YOU LIKE ME BETTER WITH LONG HAIR?
RUI...
がばっ WRAP
LONG OR SHORT, YOU'RE CUTE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE!
OH. OKAY.
かあ BLUSH

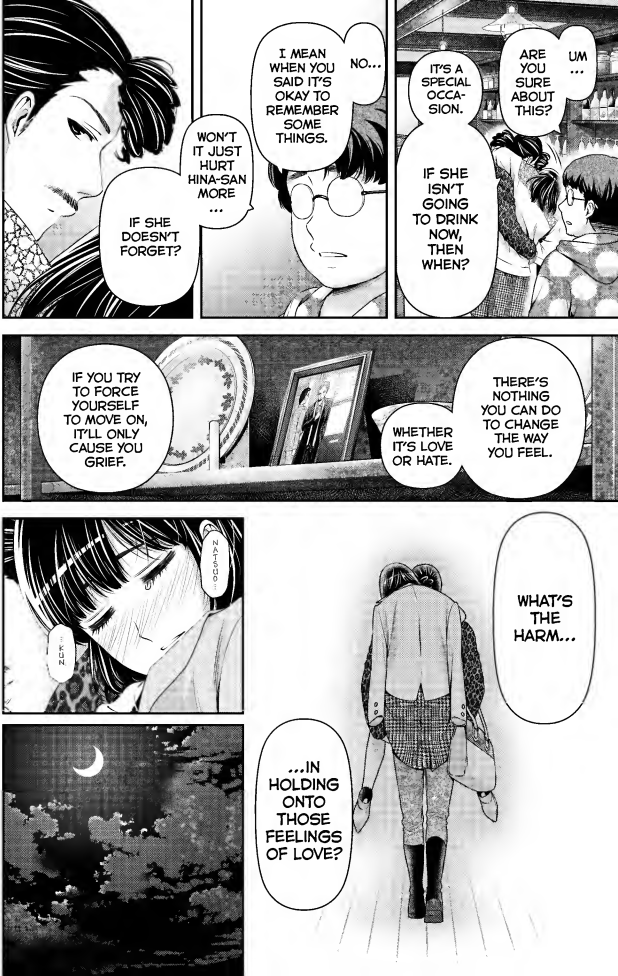

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT
WOW!
THE MAIN COURSE LOOKS GREAT, TOO!
TIME TO DIG IN!
BEING SINGLE'S THE HOT THING THESE DAYS,
BUT I DUNNO ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU TREATING YOURSELF TO A FULL-COURSE MEAL.
OH, IT'S FINE. I GOT MY FIRST PAYCHECK SINCE SWITCHING JOBS TODAY.
BESIDES, MY CO-WORKERS ARE ALL WORKING LATE TONIGHT,
SO I THOUGHT, WHAT BETTER CHANCE TO SPOIL MYSELF?
OH, MY. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
THE FEELINGS I'D KEPT PLANTED INSIDE ME FOR SO LONG...
...DIDN'T BEAR FRUIT.

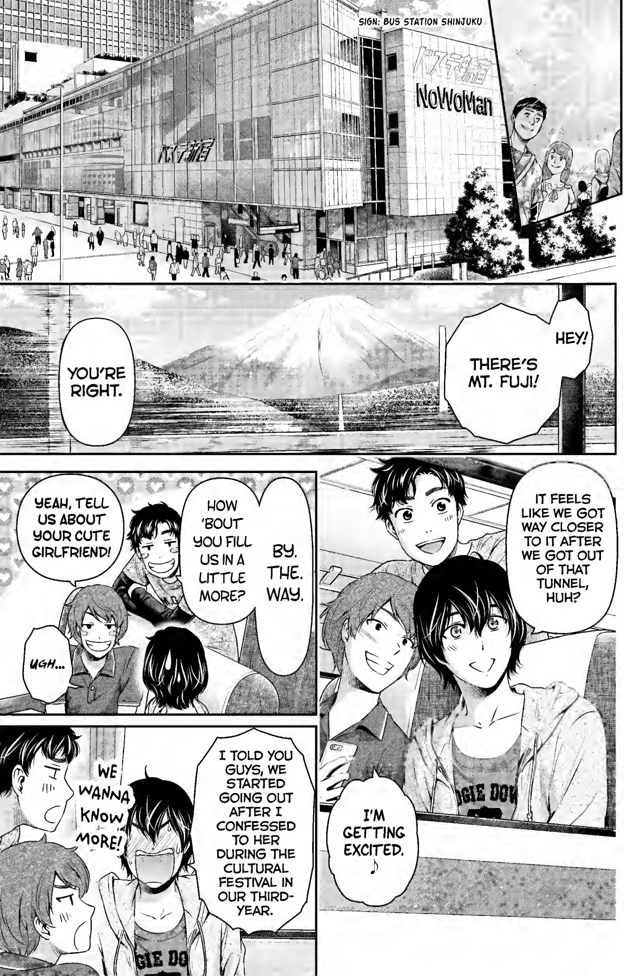
*FRENCH SPECIAL: 5,000 YEN.

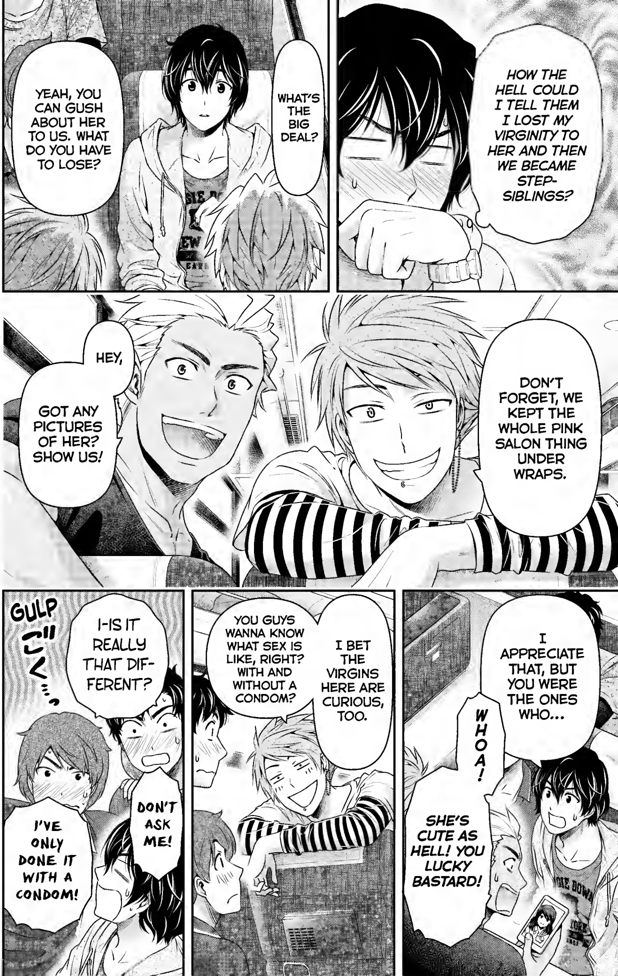

DID YOU HEAR... ...
...ABOUT NATSUO-CHAN AND RUI-CHAN?
WHEN I FOUND A PORN MAG ABOUT TEACHERS IN NATSUO-KUN'S ROOM DURING NEW YEAR'S,
I THOUGHT HE MIGHT'VE STILL HAD FEELINGS FOR ME, Y'KNOW?
TEE-HEE
YOU GOT THAT IDEA FROM A PORN MAG?
TALK ABOUT GULLIBLE.
ACTUALLY, I ASKED HIM TO HANG ONTO THAT MAGAZINE FOR ME.
REALLY?! I GOT MY HOPES UP BECAUSE OF THAT!
CURSE YOU, FUMIYA-KUN!
I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I PROMISE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND MAKE YOU HAPPY, MA'AM!
ガシ GRAB
OH, STOP!
YOU MUST BE PRETTY POPULAR NOW THAT YOU GO TO TOKYO U, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE SMOOTH SAILING ONCE I GOT INTO TOKYO U!
BUT ALL THE EVENT CLUBS ONLY SCOUT PEOPLE!
DON'T GIVE UP! YOUR TIME WILL COME!
I THINK I'M DONE WITH LOVE FOR A WHILE.
I'LL FOCUS ON WORK FOR NOW.
THAT'S GOOD. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN ARE THE ONES WHO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.
HERE, NOTHING SOOTHES THE SOUL LIKE A GOOD DRINK.
スッ SLIDE

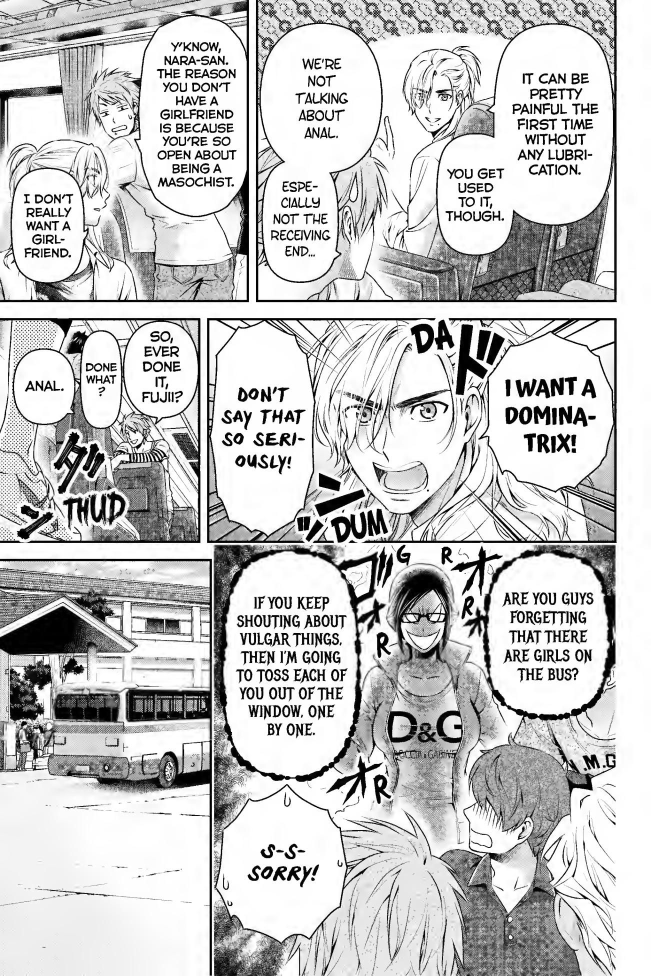

OH!
I CAN'T FALL OFF THE WAGON!
I GOT REALLY DRUNK AND SCREWED UP THE OTHER DAY...
OH, IT'S FINE TO DRINK WHEN YOU COME HERE.
I FEEL LIKE DRINKING, SO JOIN ME.
IF YOU MAKE ANY FUNNY MOVES, I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO STOP YOU.
THAT'S, UHH, REASSURING.
WELL,
ALL RIGHT.
I WANT TO HURRY AND FORGET,
SO I CAN GO BACK TO BEING MY USUAL SELF.
I GUESS I CAN LET YOU TREAT ME TO ONE DRINK.
WHO SAID I WAS TREATING YOU?
YOU'RE PAYING FOR MY DRINKS, TOO, GIRL.
REALLY?!
CALL IT MY COUNSELING FEE.
AND ANOTHER THING,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORGET EVERYTHING.
YOU HAVE GOOD MEMORIES TOGETHER TOO, DON'T YOU?

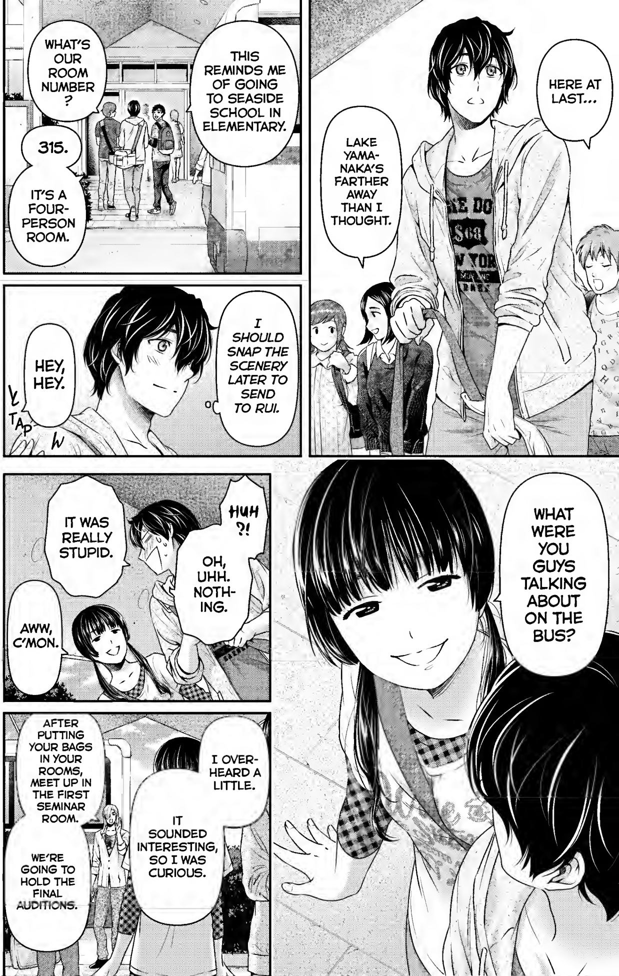

YEAH ...
CLOSED
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SHE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
I'LL TAKE HER HOME.
GIVE ME HER ADDRESS.
ALSO, LEAVE THE BOOZE OFF OF HER BILL.

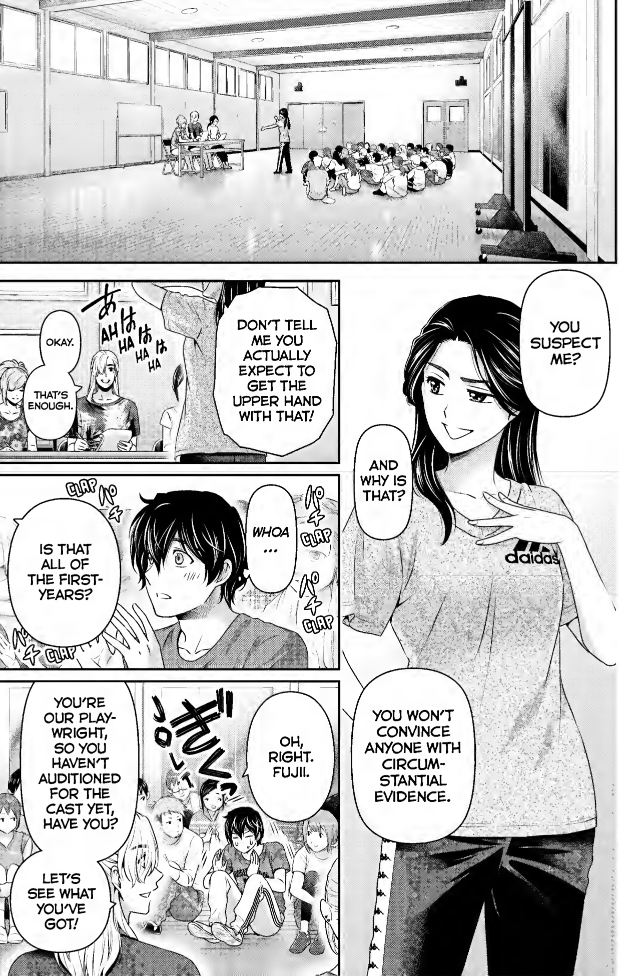

UM...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION.
IF SHE ISN'T GOING TO DRINK NOW, THEN WHEN?
NO...
I MEAN WHEN YOU SAID IT'S OKAY TO REMEMBER SOME THINGS.
WON'T IT JUST HURT HINA-SAN MORE...
IF SHE DOESN'T FORGET?
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU FEEL.
WHETHER IT'S LOVE OR HATE.
IF YOU TRY TO FORCE YOURSELF TO MOVE ON, IT'LL ONLY CAUSE YOU GRIEF.
WHAT'S THE HARM...
...IN HOLDING ONTO THOSE FEELINGS OF LOVE?
NATSUO...
...KUN.

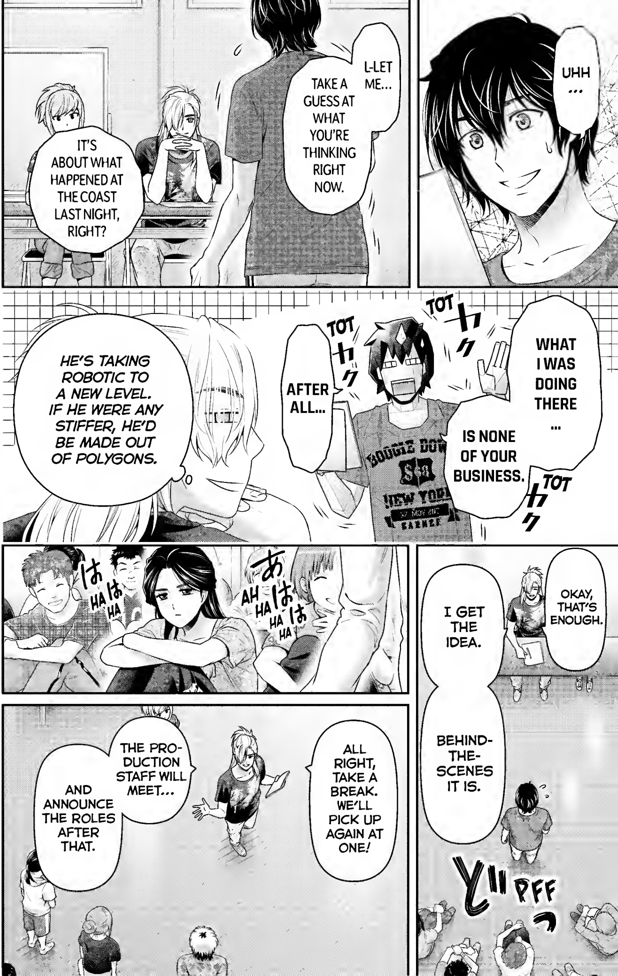

SIGN: BUS STATION SHINJUKU
NoWoMan
HEY!
THERE'S MT. FUJI!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT FEELS LIKE WE GOT WAY CLOSER TO IT AFTER WE GOT OUT OF THAT TUNNEL, HUH?
I'M GETTING EXCITED. ♪
BY. THE. WAY.
HOW 'BOUT YOU FILL US IN A LITTLE MORE?
YEAH, TELL US ABOUT YOUR CUTE GIRLFRIEND!
UGH...
I TOLD YOU GUYS, WE STARTED GOING OUT AFTER I CONFESSED TO HER DURING THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN OUR THIRD-YEAR.
WE WANNA KNOW MORE!

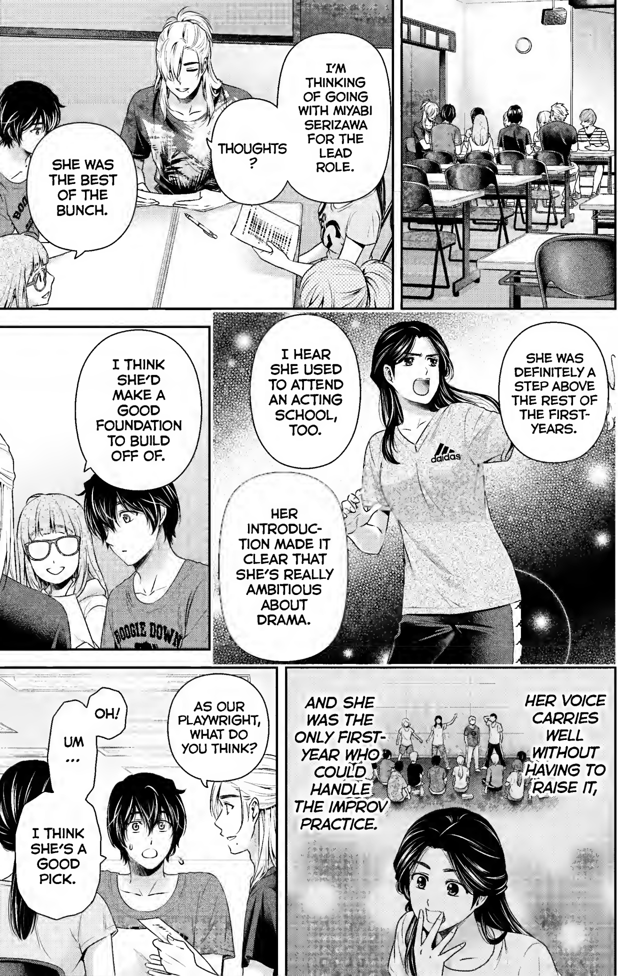

HOW THE HELL COULD I TELL THEM I LOST MY VIRGINITY TO HER AND THEN WE BECAME STEP-SIBLINGS?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YEAH, YOU CAN GUSH ABOUT HER TO US. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?
DON'T FORGET, WE KEPT THE WHOLE PINK SALON THING UNDER WRAPS.
HEY,
GOT ANY PICTURES OF HER? SHOW US!
I APPRECIATE THAT, BUT YOU WERE THE ONES WHO...
WHOA!
SHE'S CUTE AS HELL! YOU LUCKY BASTARD!
I BET THE VIRGINS HERE ARE CURIOUS, TOO.
YOU GUYS WANNA KNOW WHAT SEX IS LIKE, RIGHT? WITH AND WITHOUT A CONDOM?
I-IS IT REALLY THAT DIF-FERENT?
GULP
ごく...
DON'T ASK ME!
I'VE ONLY DONE IT WITH A CONDOM!

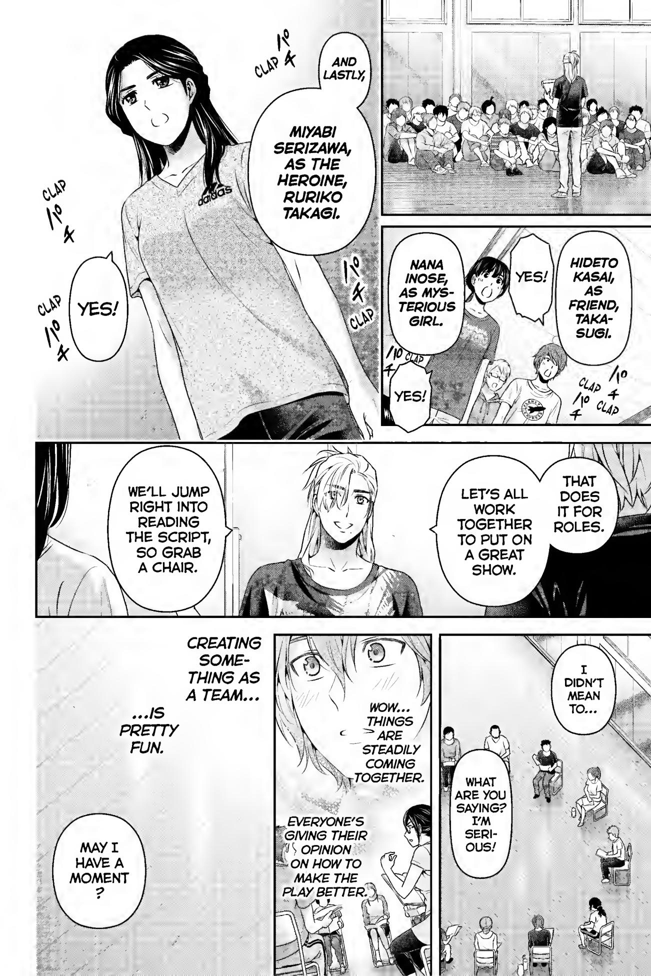

IT CAN BE PRETTY PAINFUL THE FIRST TIME WITHOUT ANY LUBRICATION.
YOU GET USED TO IT, THOUGH.
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT ANAL.
ESPECIALLY NOT THE RECEIVING END...
Y'KNOW, NARA-SAN. THE REASON YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND IS BECAUSE YOU'RE SO OPEN ABOUT BEING A MASOCHIST.
I DON'T REALLY WANT A GIRLFRIEND.
DA
I WANT A DOMINATRIX!
DON'T SAY THAT SO SERIOUSLY!
DUM
SO, EVER DONE IT, FUJII?
DONE WHAT?
ANAL.
THUD
G R R R R
ARE YOU GUYS FORGETTING THAT THERE ARE GIRLS ON THE BUS?
IF YOU KEEP SHOUTING ABOUT VULGAR THINGS, THEN I'M GOING TO TOSS EACH OF YOU OUT OF THE WINDOW, ONE BY ONE.
D&G
S-S-SORRY!

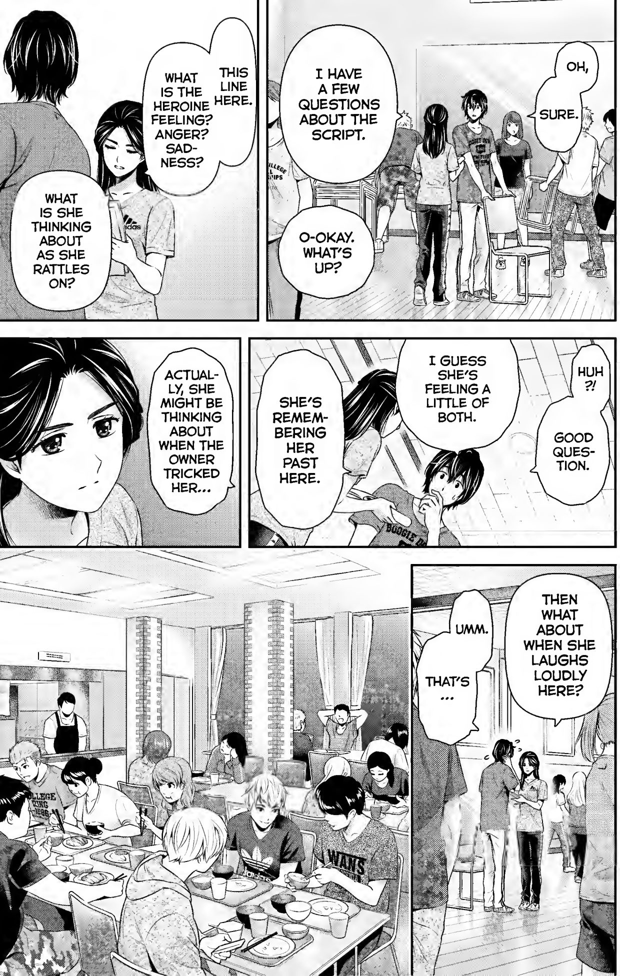

HERE AT LAST...
LAKE YAMANAKA'S FARTHER AWAY THAN I THOUGHT.
THIS REMINDS ME OF GOING TO SEASIDE SCHOOL IN ELEMENTARY.
WHAT'S OUR ROOM NUMBER?
315.
IT'S A FOUR-PERSON ROOM.
I SHOULD SNAP THE SCENERY LATER TO SEND TO RUI.
HEY, HEY.
TAP TAP
WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT ON THE BUS?
HUH?!
OH, UHH. NOTHING.
IT WAS REALLY STUPID.
AWW, C'MON.
I OVERHEARD A LITTLE.
IT SOUNDED INTERESTING, SO I WAS CURIOUS.
AFTER PUTTING YOUR BAGS IN YOUR ROOMS, MEET UP IN THE FIRST SEMINAR ROOM.
WE'RE GOING TO HOLD THE FINAL AUDITIONS.

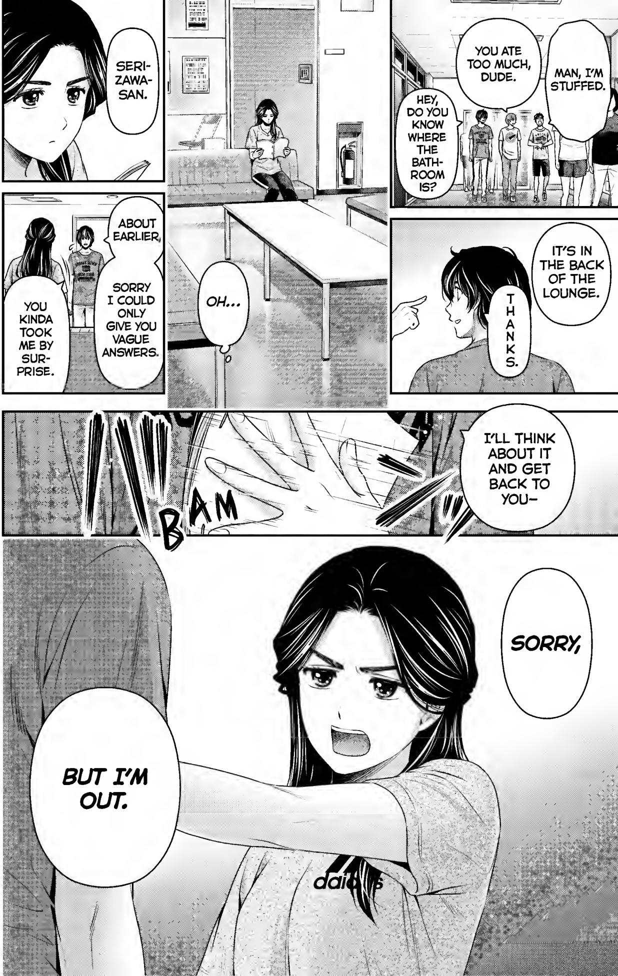

YOU SUSPECT ME?
AND WHY IS THAT?
YOU WON'T CONVINCE ANYONE WITH CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.
DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT TO GET THE UPPER HAND WITH THAT!
あはははは AH HA HA HA
OKAY.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
パチ CLAP パチ CLAP
WHOA...
IS THAT ALL OF THE FIRST-YEARS?
CLAP パチ パチ CLAP
OH, RIGHT. FUJII.
ぎくっ
YOU'RE OUR PLAYWRIGHT, SO YOU HAVEN'T AUDITIONED FOR THE CAST YET, HAVE YOU?
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

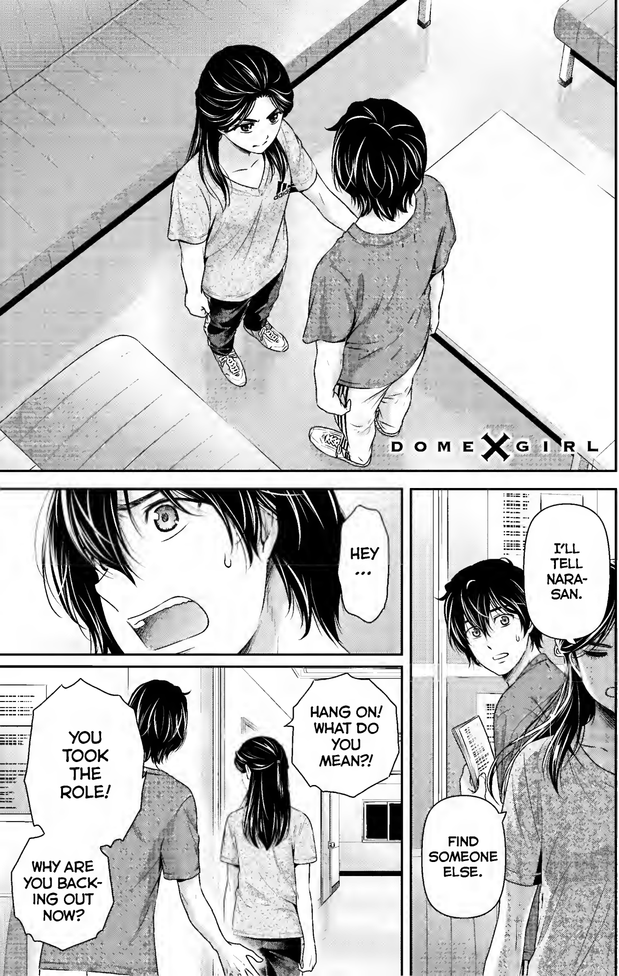

UHH...
L-LET ME...
TAKE A GUESS AT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING RIGHT NOW.
IT'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COAST LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
TOT カク
WHAT I WAS DOING THERE...
IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
TOT カク
AFTER ALL...
TOT カク
HE'S TAKING ROBOTIC TO A NEW LEVEL. IF HE WERE ANY STIFFER, HE'D BE MADE OUT OF POLYGONS.
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
I GET THE IDEA.
BEHIND-THE-SCENES IT IS.
ど PFF
あ AH はHA はHA
は HA は HA
ALL RIGHT, TAKE A BREAK. WE'LL PICK UP AGAIN AT ONE!
THE PRODUCTION STAFF WILL MEET...
AND ANNOUNCE THE ROLES AFTER THAT.

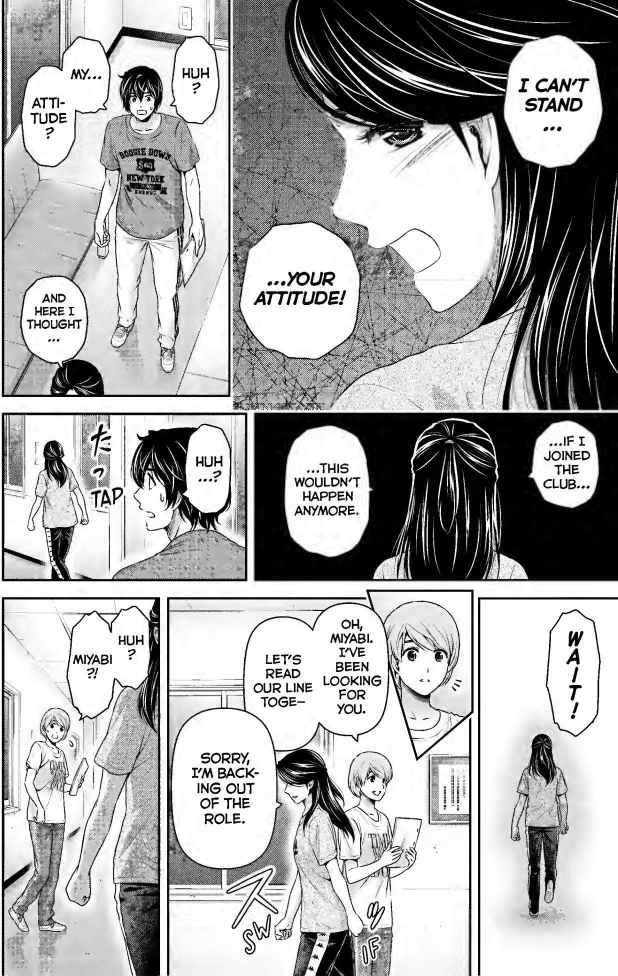

I'M THINKING OF GOING WITH MIYABI SERIZAWA FOR THE LEAD ROLE.
THOUGHTS?
SHE WAS THE BEST OF THE BUNCH.
SHE WAS DEFINITELY A STEP ABOVE THE REST OF THE FIRST-YEARS.
I HEAR SHE USED TO ATTEND AN ACTING SCHOOL, TOO.
HER INTRODUCTION MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE'S REALLY AMBITIOUS ABOUT DRAMA.
I THINK SHE'D MAKE A GOOD FOUNDATION TO BUILD OFF OF.
HER VOICE CARRIES WELL WITHOUT HAVING TO RAISE IT,
AND SHE WAS THE ONLY FIRST-YEAR WHO COULD HANDLE THE IMPROV PRACTICE.
AS OUR PLAYWRIGHT, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OH!
UM ...
I THINK SHE'S A GOOD PICK.


HIDETO KASAI, AS FRIEND, TAKASUGI.
YES!
NANA INOSE, AS MYSTERIOUS GIRL.
YES!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
AND LASTLY,
MIYABI SERIZAWA, AS THE HEROINE, RURIKO TAKAGI.
YES!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
THAT DOES IT FOR ROLES.
LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO PUT ON A GREAT SHOW.
WE'LL JUMP RIGHT INTO READING THE SCRIPT, SO GRAB A CHAIR.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M SERIOUS!
WOW... THINGS ARE STEADILY COMING TOGETHER.
EVERYONE'S GIVING THEIR OPINION ON HOW TO MAKE THE PLAY BETTER.
CREATING SOMETHING AS A TEAM...
...IS PRETTY FUN.
MAY I HAVE A MOMENT?

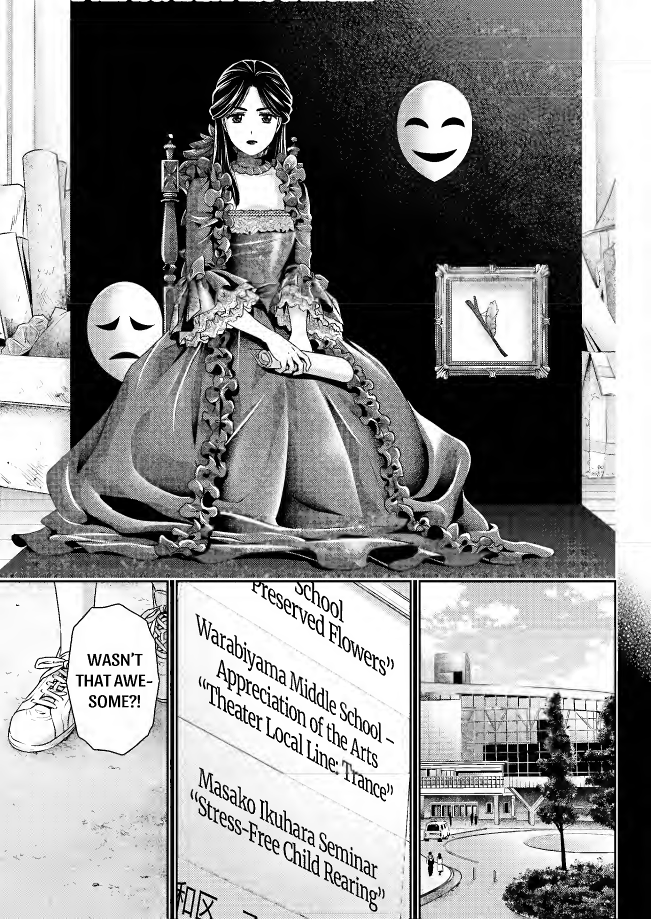

OH,
SURE.
I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCRIPT.
O-OKAY. WHAT'S UP?
THIS LINE HERE.
WHAT IS THE HEROINE FEELING? ANGER? SADNESS?
WHAT IS SHE THINKING ABOUT AS SHE RATTLES ON?
HUH?!
GOOD QUESTION.
I GUESS SHE'S FEELING A LITTLE OF BOTH.
SHE'S REMEMBERING HER PAST HERE.
ACTUALLY, SHE MIGHT BE THINKING ABOUT WHEN THE OWNER TRICKED HER...
THEN WHAT ABOUT WHEN SHE LAUGHS LOUDLY HERE?
UMM.
THAT'S ...

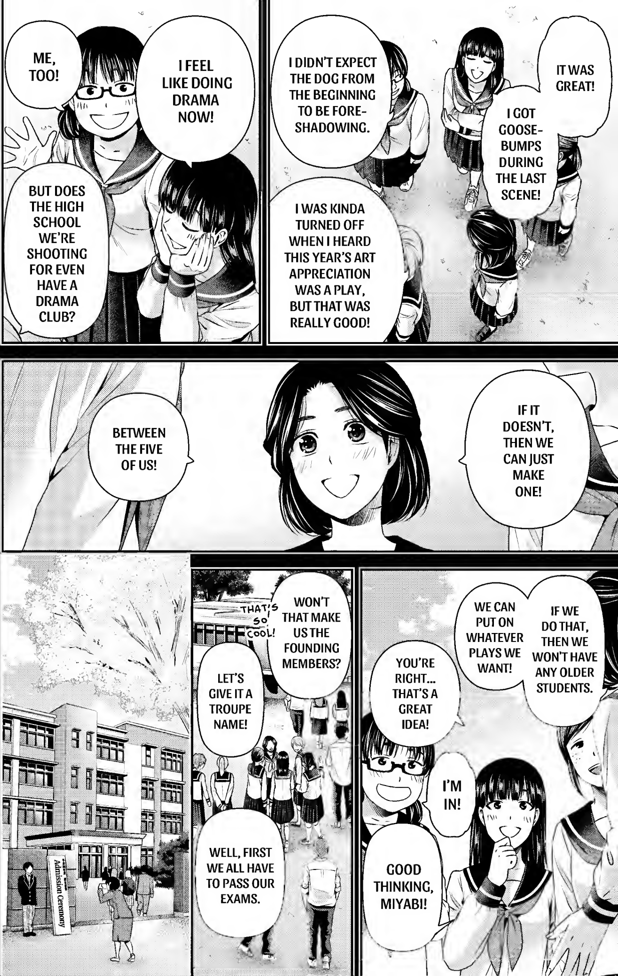

MAN, I'M STUFFED.
YOU ATE TOO MUCH, DUDE.
HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE BATHROOM IS?
IT'S IN THE BACK OF THE LOUNGE.
THANKS.
OH...
SERIZAWA-SAN.
ABOUT EARLIER,
SORRY I COULD ONLY GIVE YOU VAGUE ANSWERS.
YOU KINDA TOOK ME BY SURPRISE.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT AND GET BACK TO YOU—
BAM
SORRY,
BUT I'M OUT.

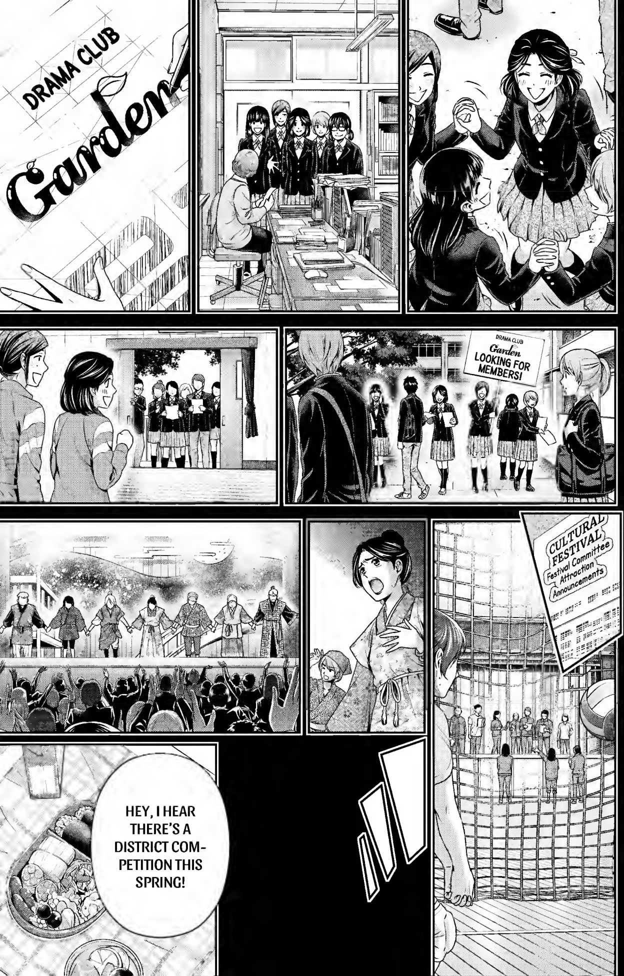

DOME X GIRL
I'LL TELL NARA-SAN.
FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
HEY …
HANG ON! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
YOU TOOK THE ROLE!
WHY ARE YOU BACKING OUT NOW?

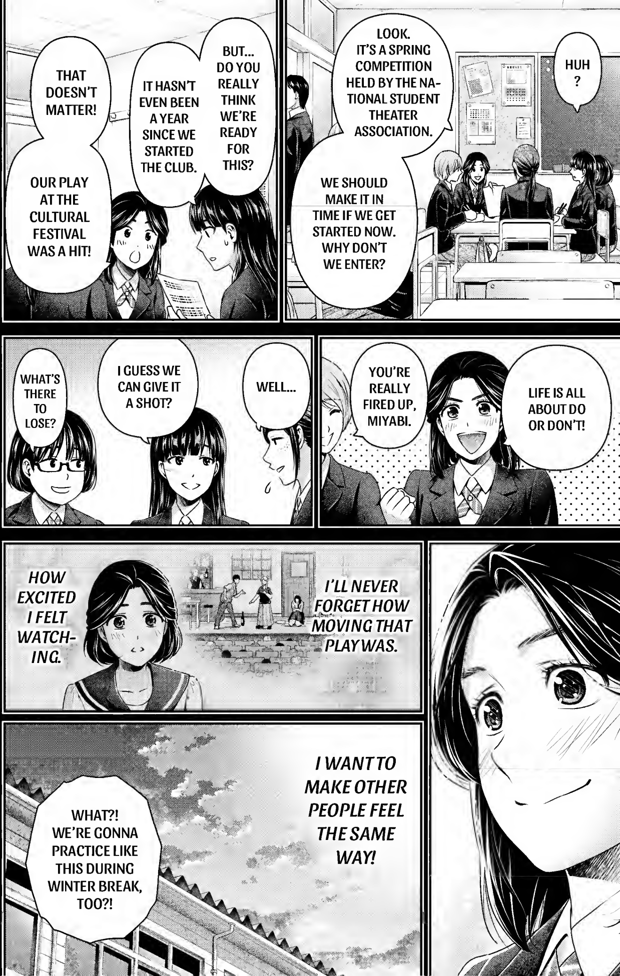

I CAN'T STAND...
...YOUR ATTITUDE!
HUH?
MY... ATTITUDE?
AND HERE I THOUGHT...
...IF I JOINED THE CLUB...
...THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN ANYMORE.
HUH...?
たっ TAP
WAIT!
OH, MIYABI. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
LET'S READ OUR LINE TOGE–
SORRY, I'M BACKING OUT OF THE ROLE.
ス SW
ッ IF
HUH?
MIYABI?!

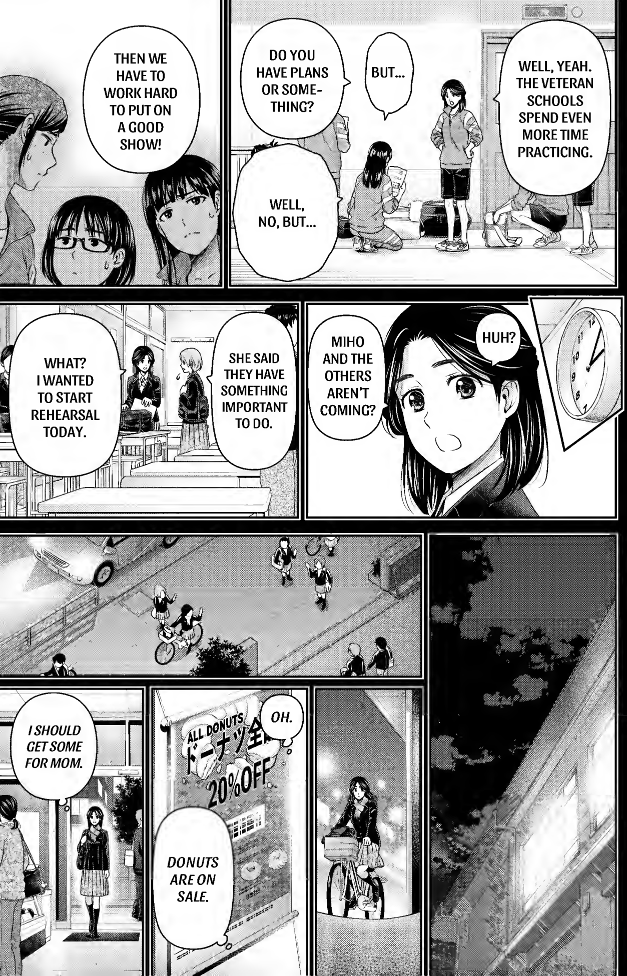
CHAPTER 150: RASHNESS & REGRET

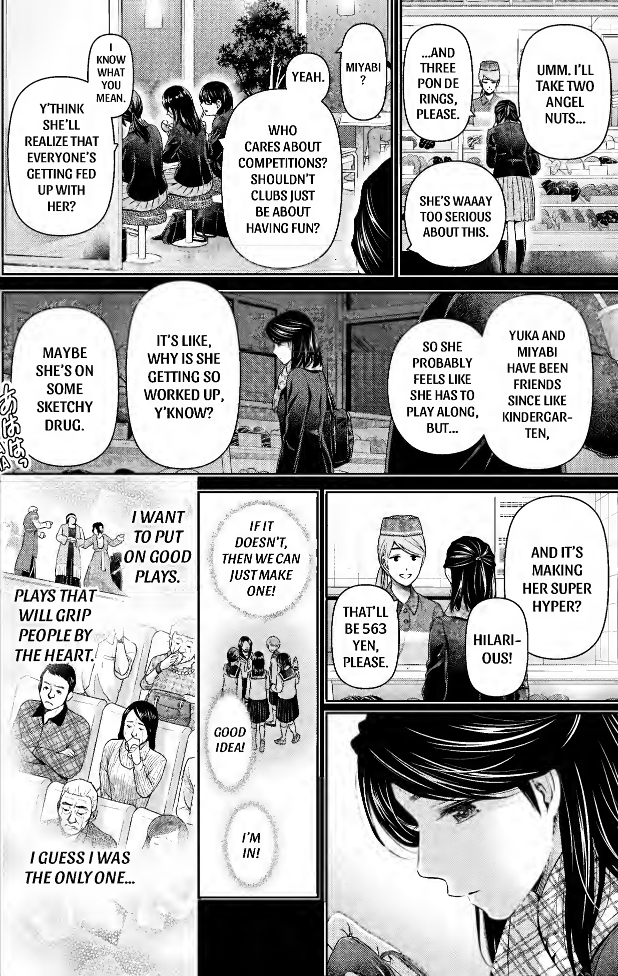

School
Preserved Flowers"
Warabiyama Middle School – Appreciation of the Arts
"Theater Local Line: Trance"
Masako Ikuhara Seminar
"Stress-Free Child Rearing"
和区
WASN'T THAT AWESOME?!

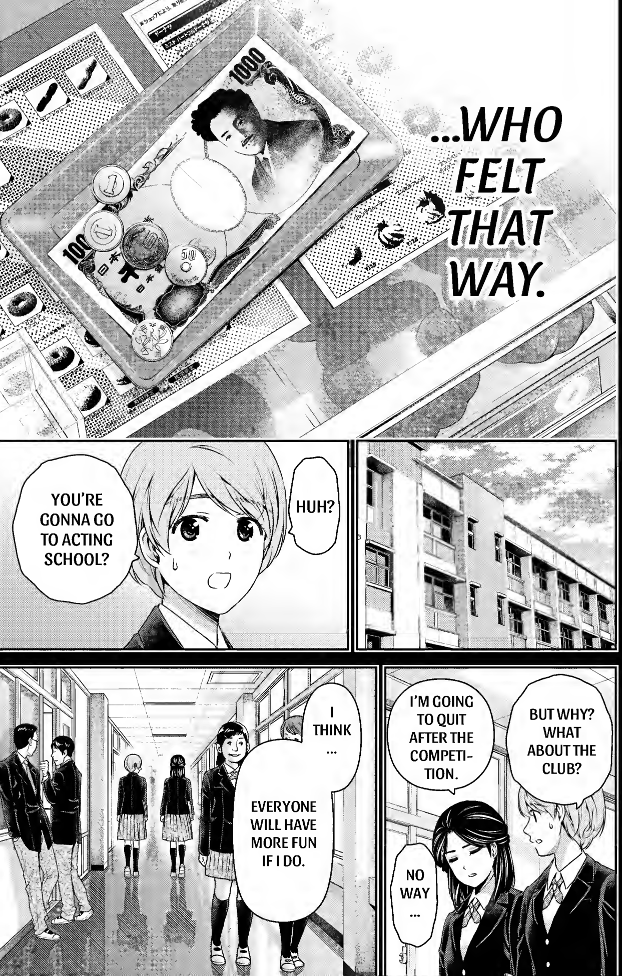

IT WAS GREAT!
I GOT GOOSEBUMPS DURING THE LAST SCENE!
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE DOG FROM THE BEGINNING TO BE FORESHADOWING.
I WAS KINDA TURNED OFF WHEN I HEARD THIS YEAR'S ART APPRECIATION WAS A PLAY, BUT THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!
I FEEL LIKE DOING DRAMA NOW!
ME, TOO!
BUT DOES THE HIGH SCHOOL WE'RE SHOOTING FOR EVEN HAVE A DRAMA CLUB?
IF IT DOESN'T, THEN WE CAN JUST MAKE ONE!
BETWEEN THE FIVE OF US!
IF WE DO THAT, THEN WE WON'T HAVE ANY OLDER STUDENTS.
WE CAN PUT ON WHATEVER PLAYS WE WANT!
YOU'RE RIGHT... THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
I'M IN!
GOOD THINKING, MIYABI!
WON'T THAT MAKE US THE FOUNDING MEMBERS?
THAT'S SO COOL!
LET'S GIVE IT A TROUPE NAME!
WELL, FIRST WE ALL HAVE TO PASS OUR EXAMS.
Admission Ceremony

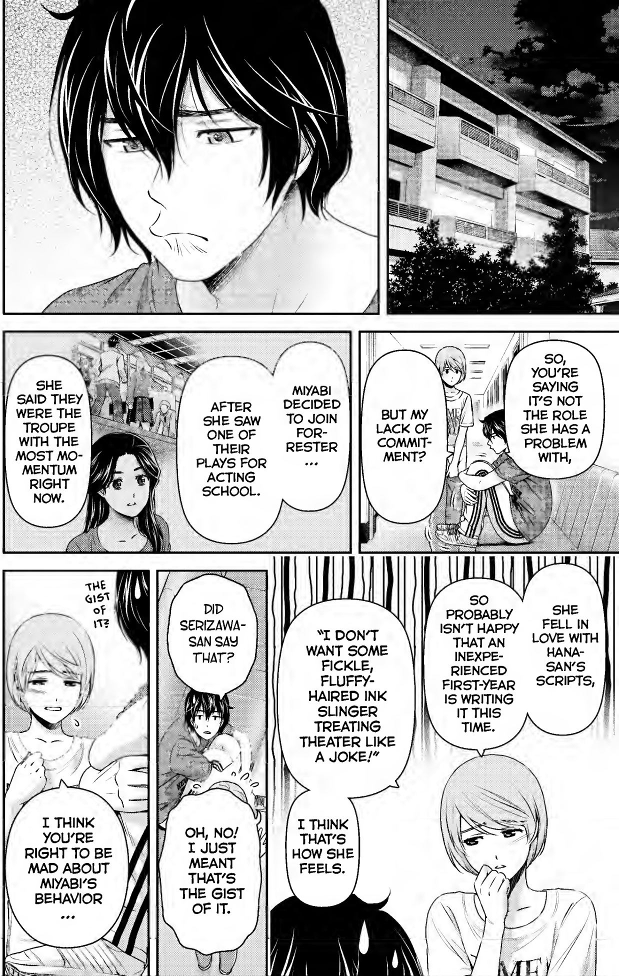

DRAMA CLUB
Garden
DRAMA CLUB Garden LOOKING FOR MEMBERS!
CULTURAL FESTIVAL Festival Committee Attraction Announcements
HEY, I HEAR THERE'S A DISTRICT COMPETITION THIS SPRING!

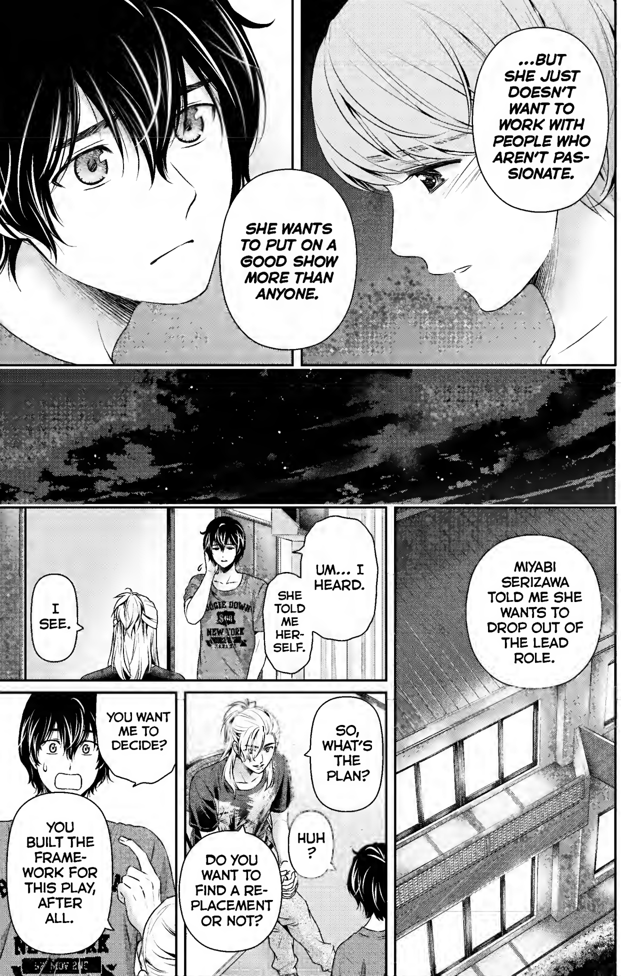

HUH?
LOOK. IT'S A SPRING COMPETITION HELD BY THE NATIONAL STUDENT THEATER ASSOCIATION.
WE SHOULD MAKE IT IN TIME IF WE GET STARTED NOW. WHY DON'T WE ENTER?
BUT... DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'RE READY FOR THIS?
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE STARTED THE CLUB.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
OUR PLAY AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL WAS A HIT!
YOU'RE REALLY FIRED UP, MIYABI.
LIFE IS ALL ABOUT DO OR DON'T!
WELL...
I GUESS WE CAN GIVE IT A SHOT?
WHAT'S THERE TO LOSE?
HOW EXCITED I FELT WATCHING.
I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW MOVING THAT PLAY WAS.
I WANT TO MAKE OTHER PEOPLE FEEL THE SAME WAY!
WHAT?! WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE LIKE THIS DURING WINTER BREAK, TOO?!

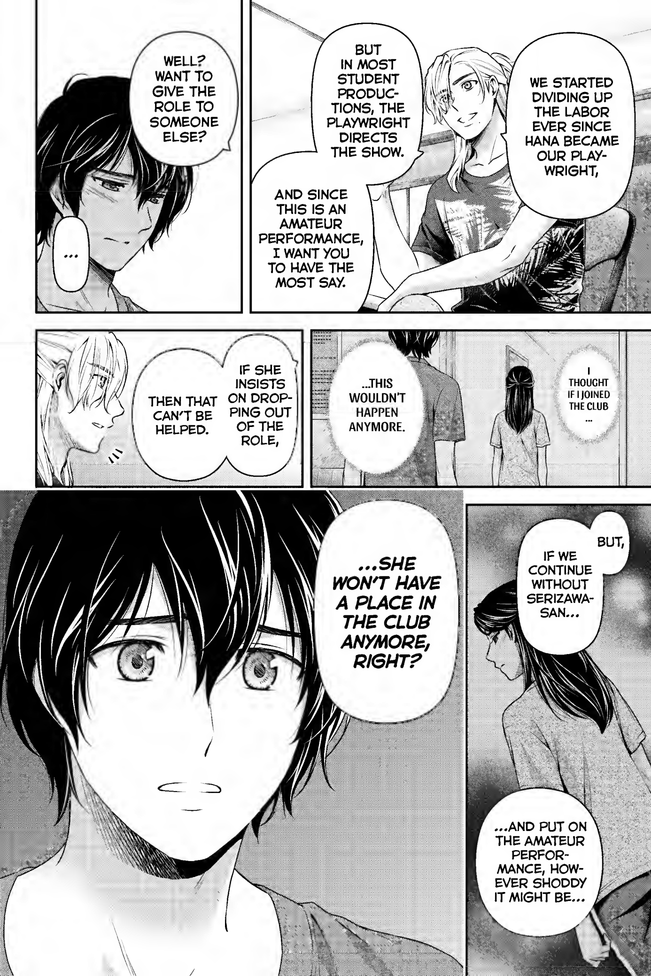

WELL, YEAH. THE VETERAN SCHOOLS SPEND EVEN MORE TIME PRACTICING.
BUT...
DO YOU HAVE PLANS OR SOME-THING?
WELL, NO, BUT...
THEN WE HAVE TO WORK HARD TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW!
HUH?
MIHO AND THE OTHERS AREN'T COMING?
SHE SAID THEY HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO.
WHAT? I WANTED TO START REHEARSAL TODAY.
OH.
ALL DONUTS
ドーナツ全
20%OFF
DONUTS ARE ON SALE.
I SHOULD GET SOME FOR MOM.

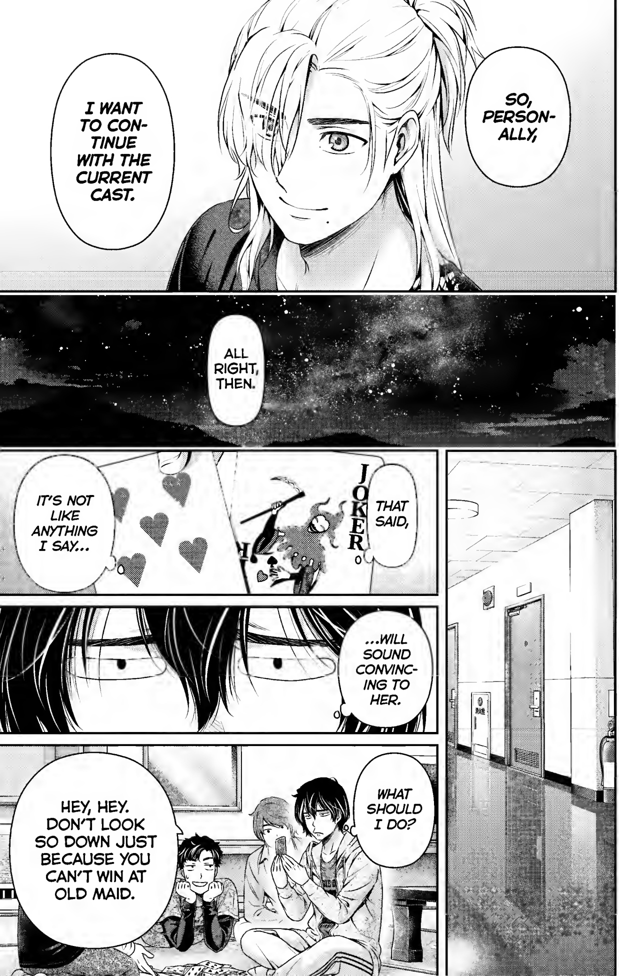

UMM. I'LL TAKE TWO ANGEL NUTS...
...AND THREE PON DE RINGS, PLEASE.
SHE'S WAAAY TOO SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
MIYABI?
YEAH.
WHO CARES ABOUT COMPETITIONS? SHOULDN'T CLUBS JUST BE ABOUT HAVING FUN?
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
Y'THINK SHE'LL REALIZE THAT EVERYONE'S GETTING FED UP WITH HER?
YUKA AND MIYABI HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE LIKE KINDERGARTEN,
SO SHE PROBABLY FEELS LIKE SHE HAS TO PLAY ALONG, BUT...
IT'S LIKE, WHY IS SHE GETTING SO WORKED UP, Y'KNOW?
MAYBE SHE'S ON SOME SKETCHY DRUG.
あはは
AH HA HA
AND IT'S MAKING HER SUPER HYPER?
HILARIOUS!
THAT'LL BE 563 YEN, PLEASE.
IF IT DOESN'T, THEN WE CAN JUST MAKE ONE!
GOOD IDEA!
I'M IN!
I WANT TO PUT ON GOOD PLAYS.
PLAYS THAT WILL GRIP PEOPLE BY THE HEART.
I GUESS I WAS THE ONLY ONE...

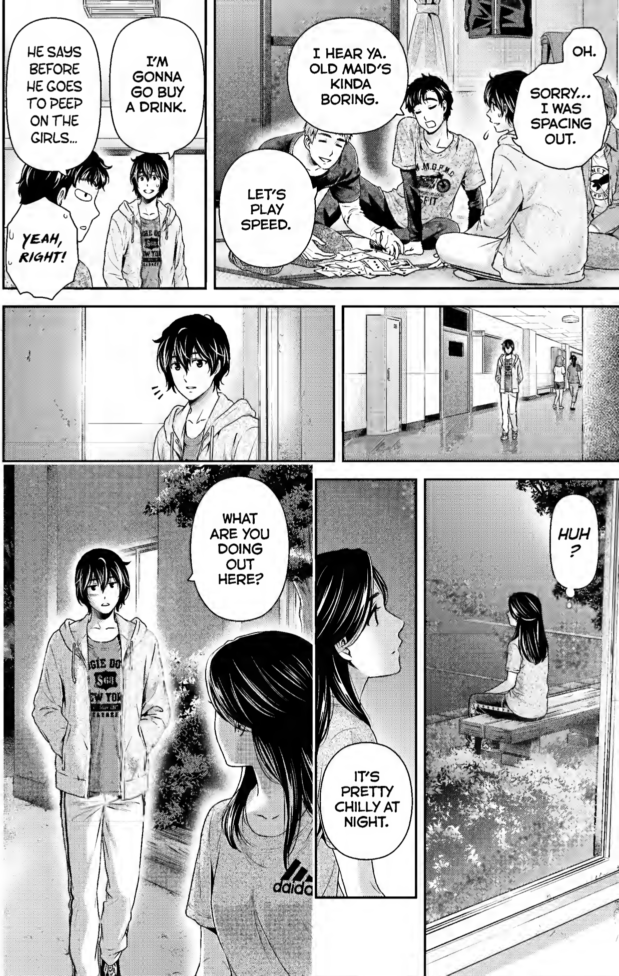

...WHO FELT THAT WAY.
HUH?
YOU'RE GONNA GO TO ACTING SCHOOL?
BUT WHY? WHAT ABOUT THE CLUB?
I'M GOING TO QUIT AFTER THE COMPETITION.
NO WAY ...
I THINK ...
EVERYONE WILL HAVE MORE FUN IF I DO.

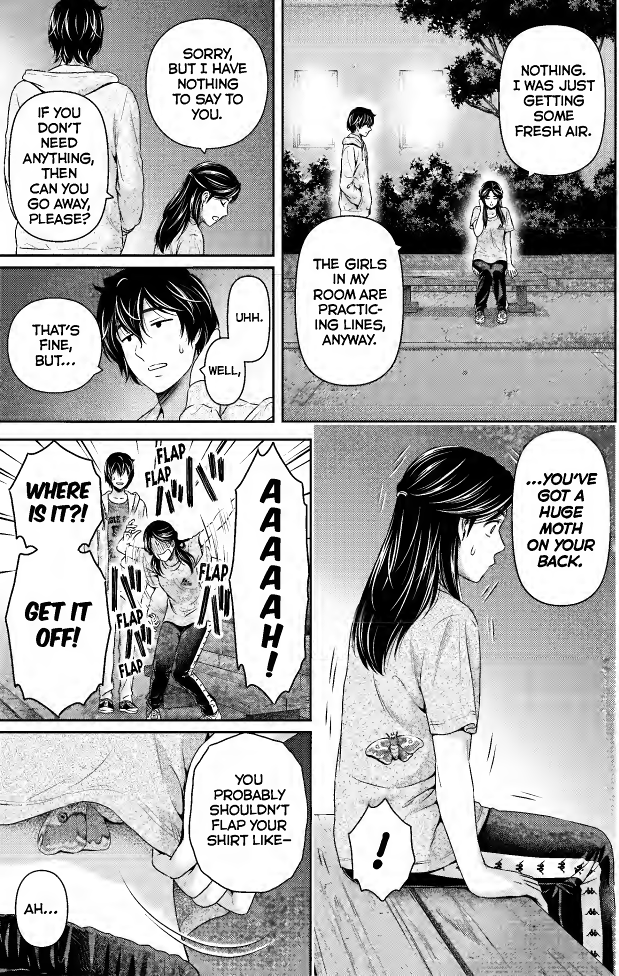

SO, YOU'RE SAYING IT'S NOT THE ROLE SHE HAS A PROBLEM WITH,
BUT MY LACK OF COMMITMENT?
MIYABI DECIDED TO JOIN FORRESTER...
AFTER SHE SAW ONE OF THEIR PLAYS FOR ACTING SCHOOL.
SHE SAID THEY WERE THE TROUPE WITH THE MOST MOMENTUM RIGHT NOW.
SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH HANA-SAN'S SCRIPTS,
SO PROBABLY ISN'T HAPPY THAT AN INEXPERIENCED FIRST-YEAR IS WRITING IT THIS TIME.
"I DON'T WANT SOME FICKLE, FLUFFY-HAIRED INK SLINGER TREATING THEATER LIKE A JOKE!"
I THINK THAT'S HOW SHE FEELS.
DID SERIZAWA-SAN SAY THAT?
OH, NO! I JUST MEANT THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.
THE GIST OF IT?
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT TO BE MAD ABOUT MIYABI'S BEHAVIOR...

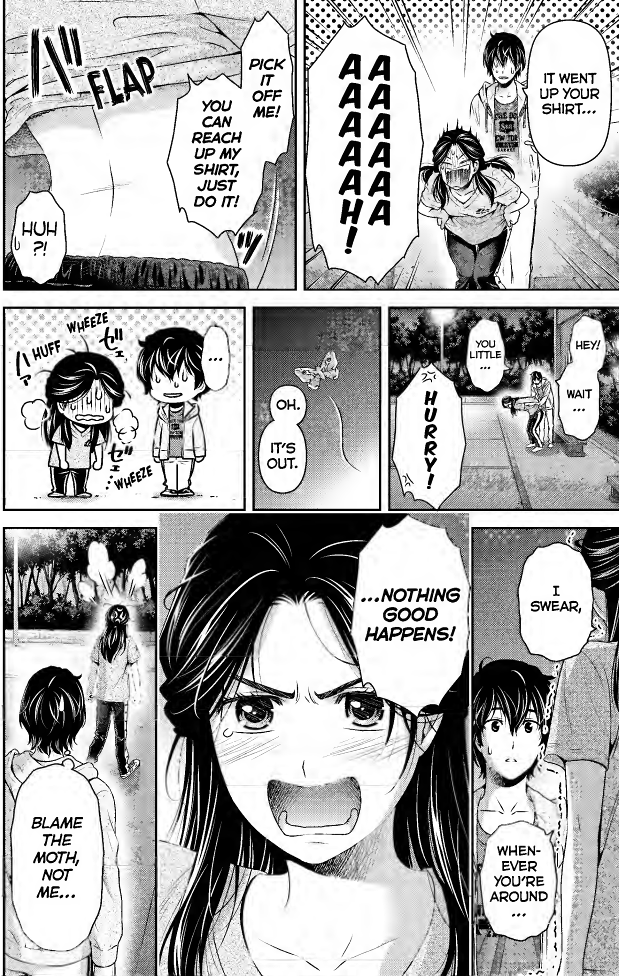

...BUT SHE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO WORK WITH PEOPLE WHO AREN'T PASSIONATE.
SHE WANTS TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW MORE THAN ANYONE.
MIYABI SERIZAWA TOLD ME SHE WANTS TO DROP OUT OF THE LEAD ROLE.
UM... I HEARD.
SHE TOLD ME HERSELF.
I SEE.
SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?
HUH?
DO YOU WANT TO FIND A REPLACEMENT OR NOT?
YOU WANT ME TO DECIDE?
YOU BUILT THE FRAMEWORK FOR THIS PLAY, AFTER ALL.

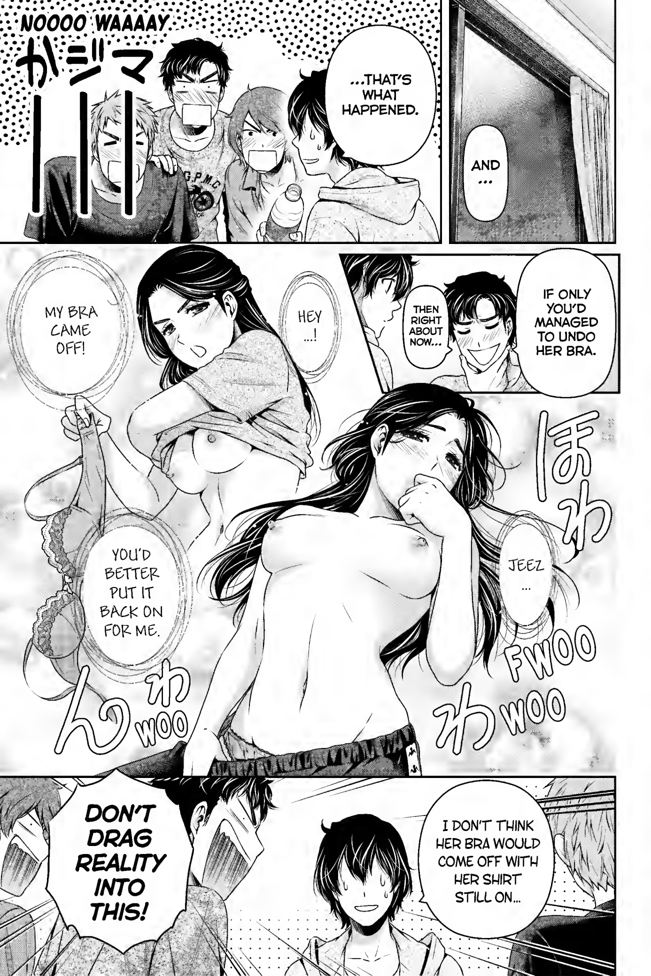

WE STARTED DIVIDING UP THE LABOR EVER SINCE HANA BECAME OUR PLAYWRIGHT,
BUT IN MOST STUDENT PRODUCTIONS, THE PLAYWRIGHT DIRECTS THE SHOW.
AND SINCE THIS IS AN AMATEUR PERFORMANCE, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE MOST SAY.
WELL? WANT TO GIVE THE ROLE TO SOMEONE ELSE?
...
I THOUGHT IF I JOINED THE CLUB...
...THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN ANYMORE.
IF SHE INSISTS ON DROPPING OUT OF THE ROLE,
THEN THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.
BUT,
IF WE CONTINUE WITHOUT SERIZAWA-SAN...
...AND PUT ON THE AMATEUR PERFORMANCE, HOWEVER SHODDY IT MIGHT BE...
...SHE WON'T HAVE A PLACE IN THE CLUB ANYMORE, RIGHT?

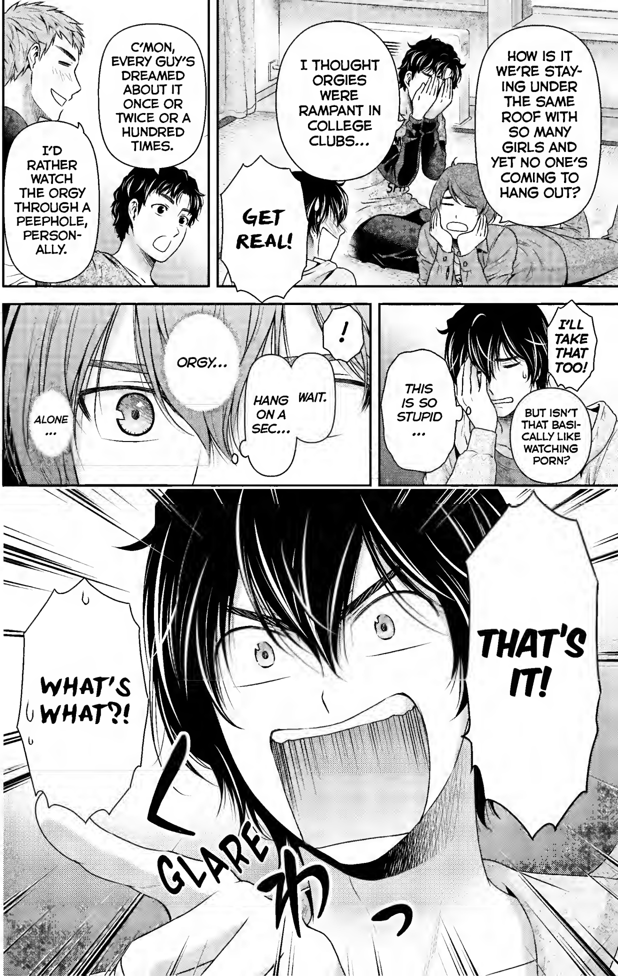

SO, PERSONALLY,
I WANT TO CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT CAST.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
JOKER
THAT SAID,
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING I SAY...
...WILL SOUND CONVINCING TO HER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HEY, HEY. DON'T LOOK SO DOWN JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T WIN AT OLD MAID.


OH.
SORRY... I WAS SPACING OUT.
I HEAR YA. OLD MAID'S KINDA BORING.
LET'S PLAY SPEED.
I'M GONNA GO BUY A DRINK.
HE SAYS BEFORE HE GOES TO PEEP ON THE GIRLS...
YEAH, RIGHT!
HUH?
IT'S PRETTY CHILLY AT NIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

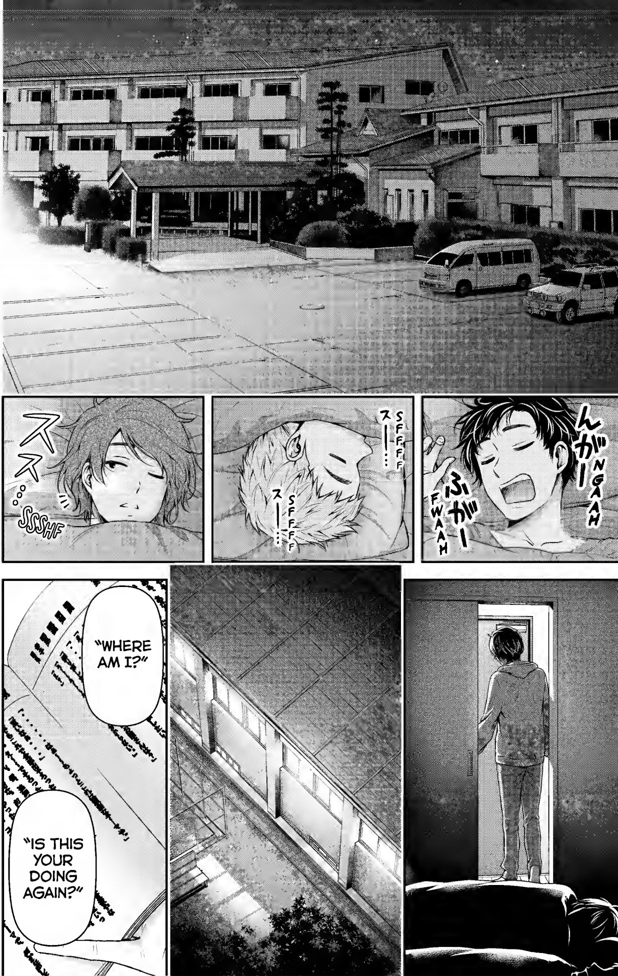

NOTHING. I WAS JUST GETTING SOME FRESH AIR.
THE GIRLS IN MY ROOM ARE PRACTICING LINES, ANYWAY.
SORRY, BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
IF YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING, THEN CAN YOU GO AWAY, PLEASE?
UHH.
WELL,
THAT'S FINE, BUT...
...YOU'VE GOT A HUGE MOTH ON YOUR BACK.
!
AAAAAAH!
FLAP FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
WHERE IS IT?!
GET IT OFF!
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T FLAP YOUR SHIRT LIKE–
AH...

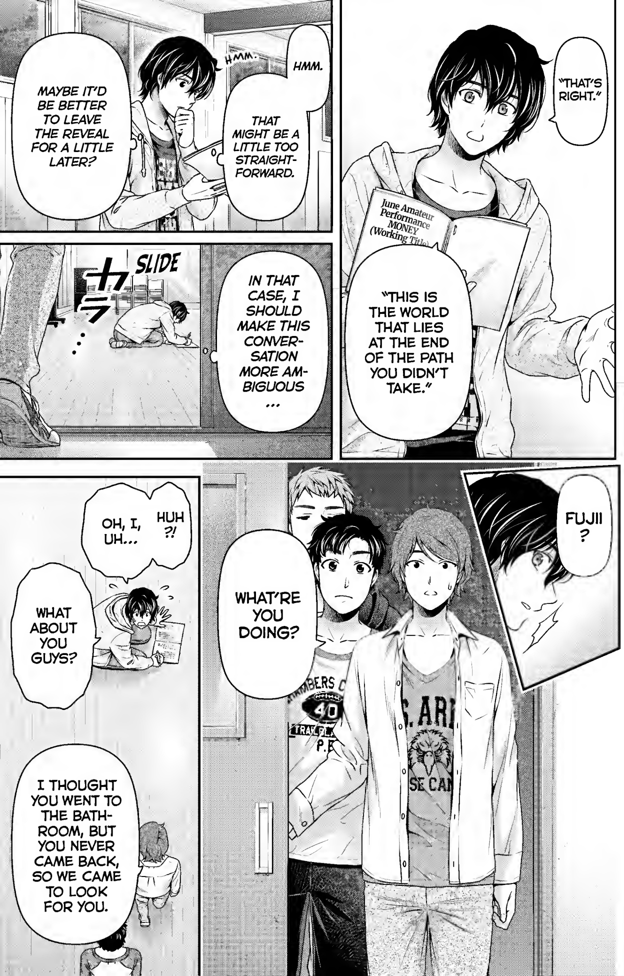

IT WENT UP YOUR SHIRT...
AAAAAAH!
AAAAAAA
PICK IT OFF ME!
YOU CAN REACH UP MY SHIRT, JUST DO IT!
バ FLAP
HUH ?!
HEY!
WAIT ...
YOU LITTLE ...
HURRY!
OH.
IT'S OUT.
...
ハァ HUFF
WHEEZE セェ
セェ ...WHEEZE
I SWEAR,
WHEN-EVER YOU'RE AROUND ...
...NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS!
BLAME THE MOTH, NOT ME...

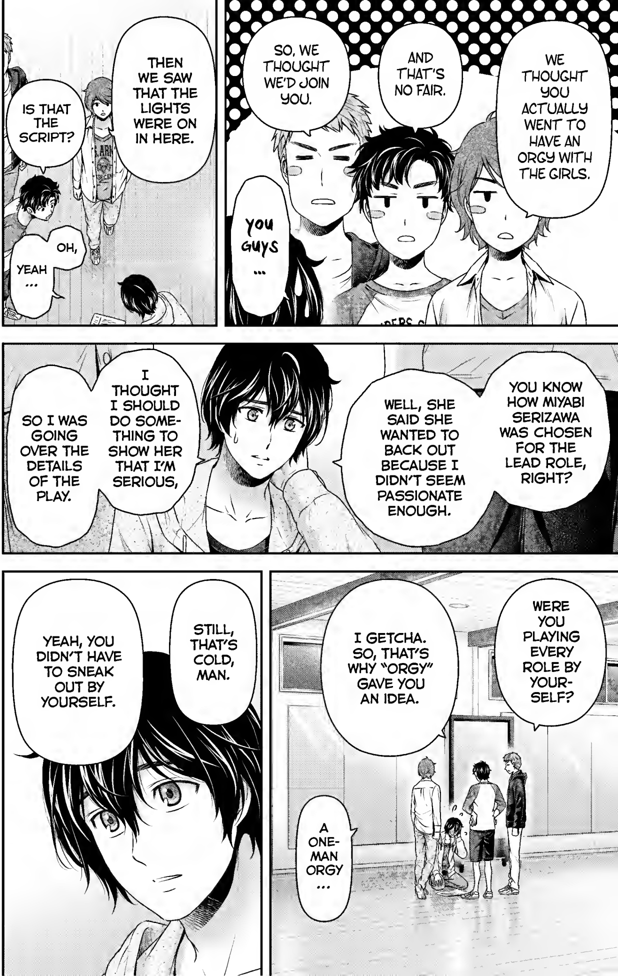

AND ...
...THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
NOOOO WAAAAY
マジか
IF ONLY YOU'D MANAGED TO UNDO HER BRA.
THEN RIGHT ABOUT NOW...
HEY ...!
MY BRA CAME OFF!
YOU'D BETTER PUT IT BACK ON FOR ME.
JEEZ ...
ほわ
FWOO
わ WOO
んわ WOO
I DON'T THINK HER BRA WOULD COME OFF WITH HER SHIRT STILL ON...
DON'T DRAG REALITY INTO THIS!

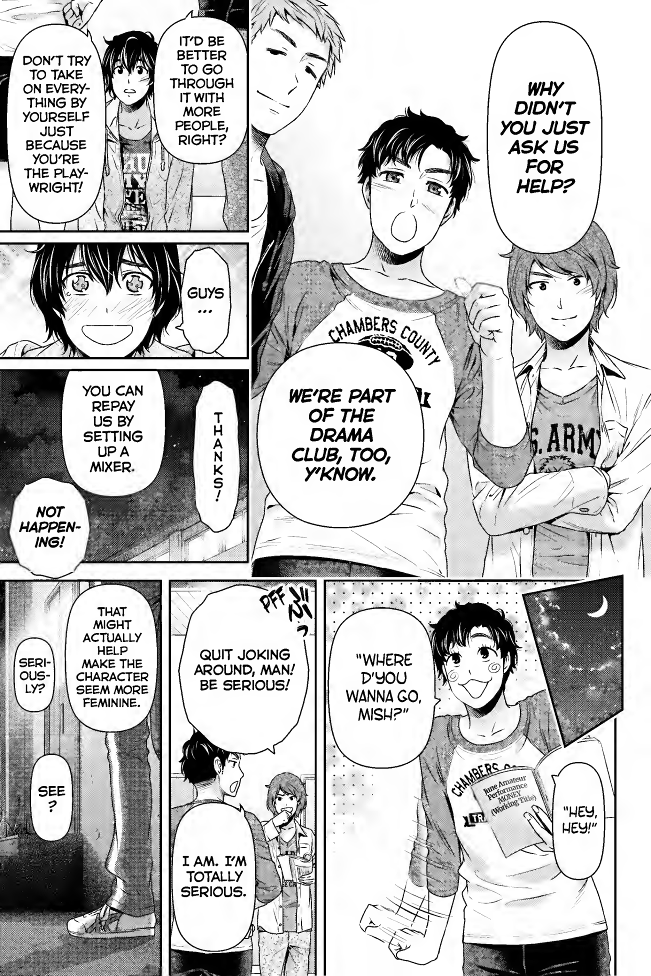

HOW IS IT WE'RE STAYING UNDER THE SAME ROOF WITH SO MANY GIRLS AND YET NO ONE'S COMING TO HANG OUT?
I THOUGHT ORGIES WERE RAMPANT IN COLLEGE CLUBS...
GET REAL!
C'MON, EVERY GUY'S DREAMED ABOUT IT ONCE OR TWICE OR A HUNDRED TIMES.
I'D RATHER WATCH THE ORGY THROUGH A PEEPHOLE, PERSONALLY.
BUT ISN'T THAT BASICALLY LIKE WATCHING PORN?
I'LL TAKE THAT TOO!
THIS IS SO STUPID...
!
WAIT. HANG ON A SEC...
ORGY...
ALONE...
THAT'S IT!
WHAT'S WHAT?!
GLARE

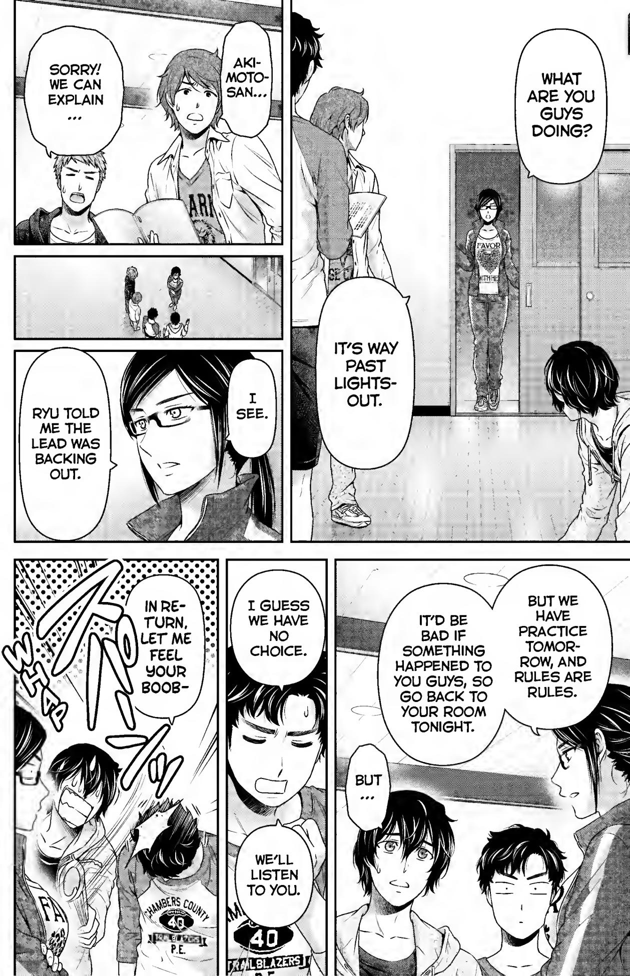
CHAPTER 151: FIRST GROUP PROJECT

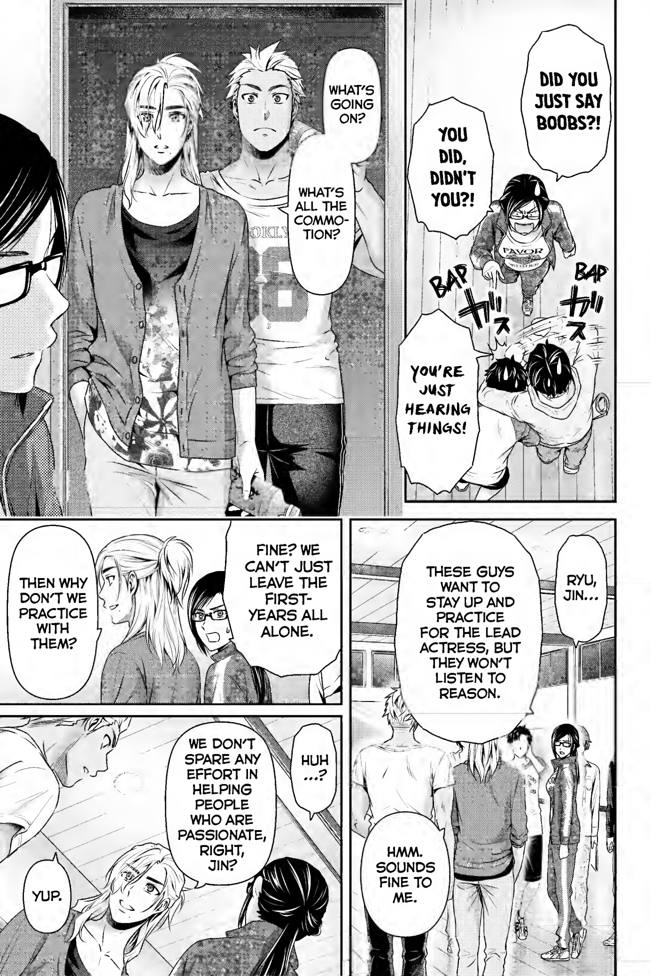

んがー
NGAAH
ふがー
FWAAH
スー…
SFFFF
スー…
SFFFF
スス
SSSHF
"WHERE AM I?"
"IS THIS YOUR DOING AGAIN?"

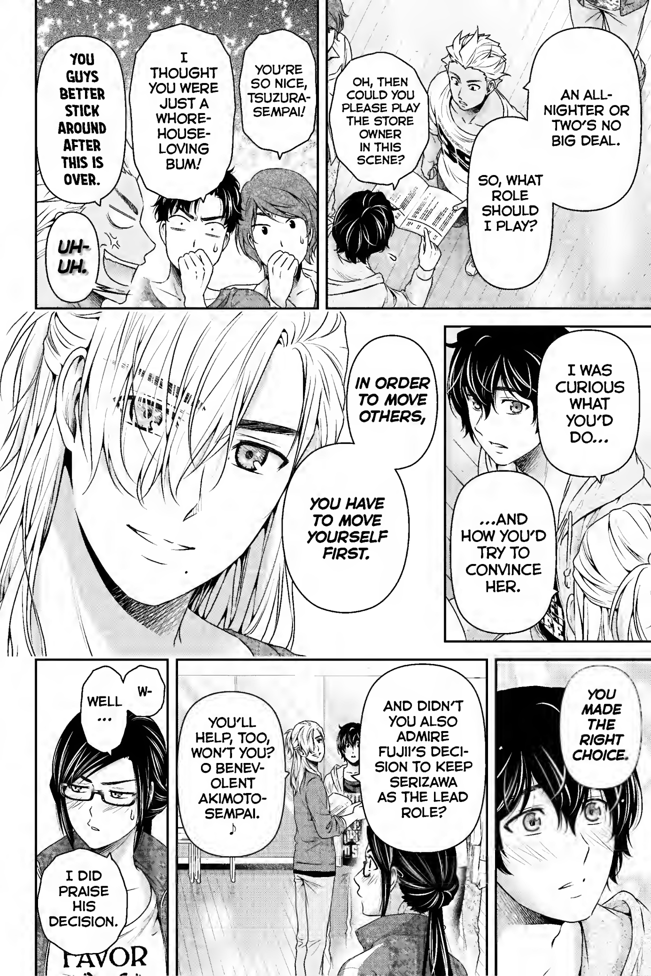

"THAT'S RIGHT."
June Amateur Performance MONEY (Working Title)
"THIS IS THE WORLD THAT LIES AT THE END OF THE PATH YOU DIDN'T TAKE."
HMM.
HMM.
THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO STRAIGHTFORWARD.
MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO LEAVE THE REVEAL FOR A LITTLE LATER?
IN THAT CASE, I SHOULD MAKE THIS CONVERSATION MORE AMBIGUOUS ...
SLIDE
カラ
...
FUJII ?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
HUH ?!
OH, I, UH...
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?
I THOUGHT YOU WENT TO THE BATHROOM, BUT YOU NEVER CAME BACK, SO WE CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU.

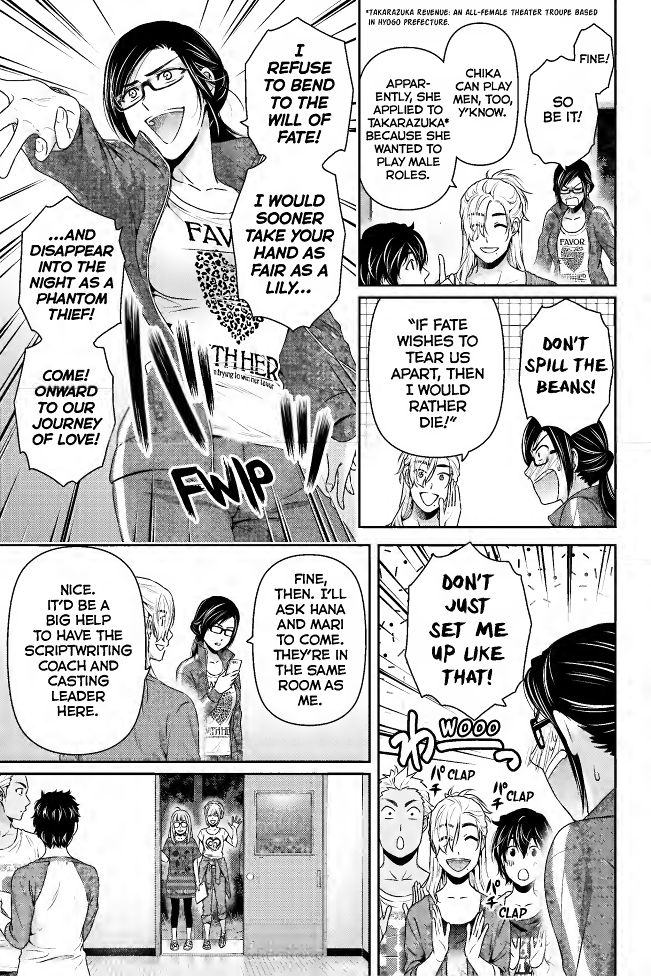

WE THOUGHT YOU ACTUALLY WENT TO HAVE AN ORGY WITH THE GIRLS.
AND THAT'S NO FAIR.
SO, WE THOUGHT WE'D JOIN YOU.
you guys ...
THEN WE SAW THAT THE LIGHTS WERE ON IN HERE.
IS THAT THE SCRIPT?
OH, YEAH ...
YOU KNOW HOW MIYABI SERIZAWA WAS CHOSEN FOR THE LEAD ROLE, RIGHT?
WELL, SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO BACK OUT BECAUSE I DIDN'T SEEM PASSIONATE ENOUGH.
I THOUGHT I SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO SHOW HER THAT I'M SERIOUS,
SO I WAS GOING OVER THE DETAILS OF THE PLAY.
WERE YOU PLAYING EVERY ROLE BY YOURSELF?
I GETCHA. SO, THAT'S WHY "ORGY" GAVE YOU AN IDEA.
A ONE-MAN ORGY ...
STILL, THAT'S COLD, MAN.
YEAH, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SNEAK OUT BY YOURSELF.


WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST ASK US FOR HELP?
WE'RE PART OF THE DRAMA CLUB, TOO, Y'KNOW.
CHAMBERS COUNTY
S. ARMY
IT'D BE BETTER TO GO THROUGH IT WITH MORE PEOPLE, RIGHT?
DON'T TRY TO TAKE ON EVERYTHING BY YOURSELF JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE PLAYWRIGHT!
GUYS...
THANKS!
YOU CAN REPAY US BY SETTING UP A MIXER.
NOT HAPPENING!
"HEY, HEY!"
"WHERE D'YOU WANNA GO, MISH?"
June Amateur Performance MONEY (Working Title)
PFF
QUIT JOKING AROUND, MAN! BE SERIOUS!
I AM. I'M TOTALLY SERIOUS.
THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY HELP MAKE THE CHARACTER SEEM MORE FEMININE.
SERIOUSLY?
SEE?

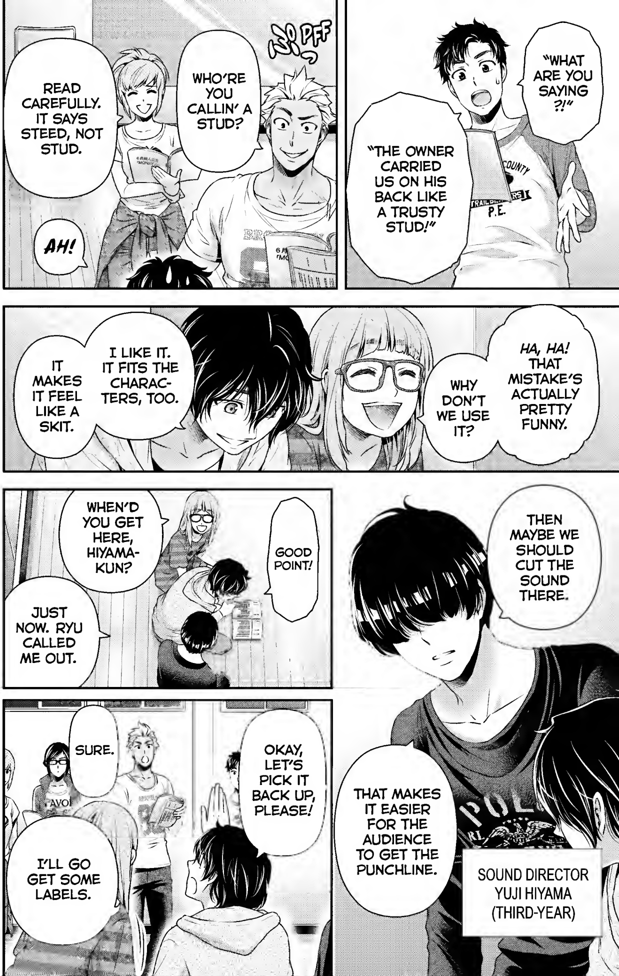

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
IT'S WAY PAST LIGHTS-OUT.
FAVOR
WITH HER
AKI-MOTO-SAN...
SORRY! WE CAN EXPLAIN...
I SEE.
RYU TOLD ME THE LEAD WAS BACKING OUT.
BUT WE HAVE PRACTICE TOMORROW, AND RULES ARE RULES.
IT'D BE BAD IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS, SO GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM TONIGHT.
BUT...
I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
WE'LL LISTEN TO YOU.
40
TRAILBLAZERS
IN RETURN, LET ME FEEL YOUR BOOB-
WHAP
CHAMBERS COUNTY
40
TRAILBLAZERS
P.E.

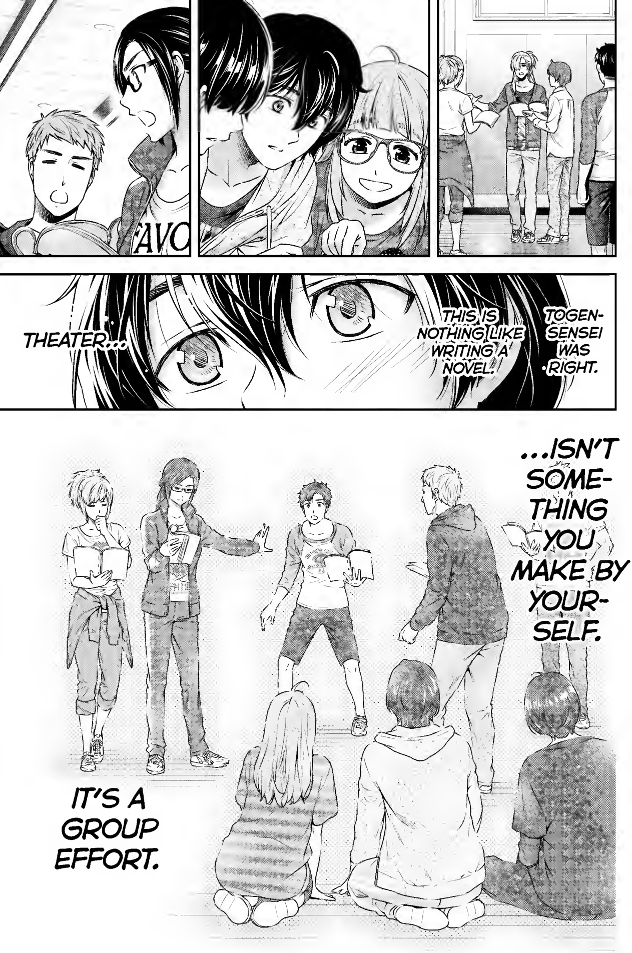

DID YOU JUST SAY BOOBS?!
YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU?!
BAP ガス
BAP ガス
YOU'RE JUST HEARING THINGS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
RYU, JIN...
THESE GUYS WANT TO STAY UP AND PRACTICE FOR THE LEAD ACTRESS, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN TO REASON.
HMM. SOUNDS FINE TO ME.
FINE? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE FIRST-YEARS ALL ALONE.
THEN WHY DON'T WE PRACTICE WITH THEM?
HUH...?
WE DON'T SPARE ANY EFFORT IN HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE PASSIONATE, RIGHT, JIN?
YUP.

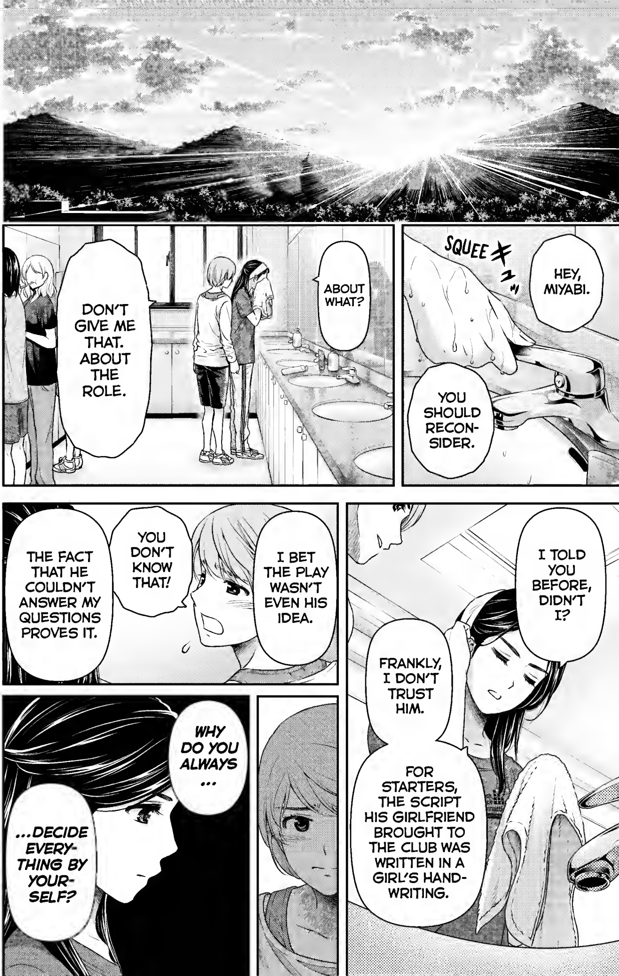

AN ALL-NIGHTER OR TWO'S NO BIG DEAL.
SO, WHAT ROLE SHOULD I PLAY?
OH, THEN COULD YOU PLEASE PLAY THE STORE OWNER IN THIS SCENE?
YOU'RE SO NICE, TSUZURA-SEMPAI!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A WHOREHOUSE-LOVING BUM!
YOU GUYS BETTER STICK AROUND AFTER THIS IS OVER.
UH-UH.
I WAS CURIOUS WHAT YOU'D DO...
...AND HOW YOU'D TRY TO CONVINCE HER.
IN ORDER TO MOVE OTHERS,
YOU HAVE TO MOVE YOURSELF FIRST.
YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
AND DIDN'T YOU ALSO ADMIRE FUJII'S DECISION TO KEEP SERIZAWA AS THE LEAD ROLE?
YOU'LL HELP, TOO, WON'T YOU? O BENEVOLENT AKIMOTO-SEMPAI. ♪
W-
WELL ...
I DID PRAISE HIS DECISION.
FAVOR

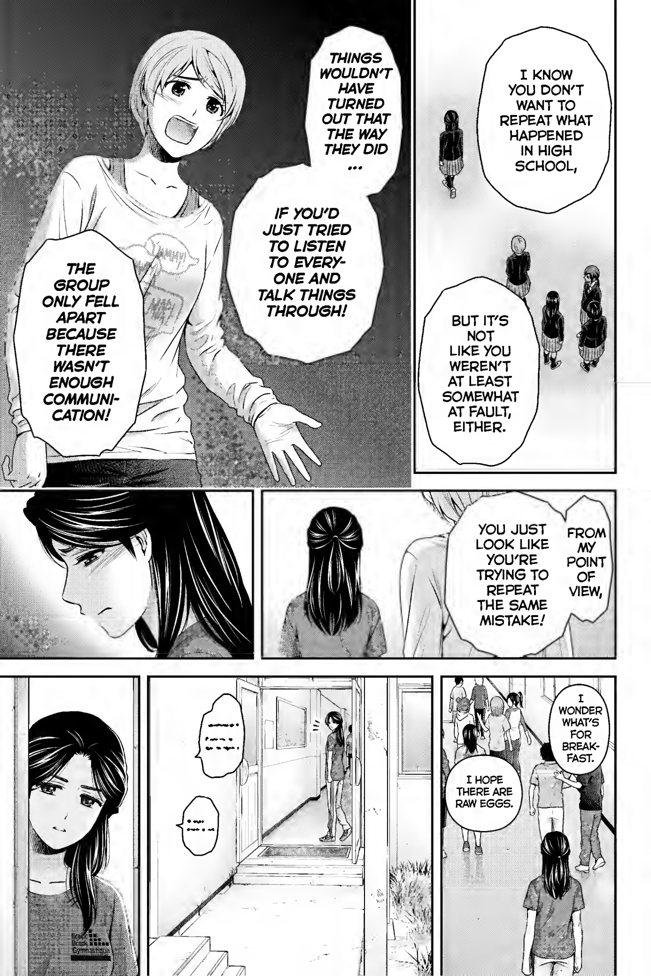

FINE!
SO BE IT!
CHIKA CAN PLAY MEN, TOO, Y'KNOW.
APPARENTLY, SHE APPLIED TO TAKARAZUKA* BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO PLAY MALE ROLES.
"IF FATE WISHES TO TEAR US APART, THEN I WOULD RATHER DIE!"
DON'T SPILL THE BEANS!
I REFUSE TO BEND TO THE WILL OF FATE!
I WOULD SOONER TAKE YOUR HAND AS FAIR AS A LILY...
...AND DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT AS A PHANTOM THIEF!
COME! ONWARD TO OUR JOURNEY OF LOVE!
FWIP
DON'T JUST SET ME UP LIKE THAT!
わ WOOO
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
FINE, THEN. I'LL ASK HANA AND MARI TO COME. THEY'RE IN THE SAME ROOM AS ME.
NICE. IT'D BE A BIG HELP TO HAVE THE SCRIPTWRITING COACH AND CASTING LEADER HERE.

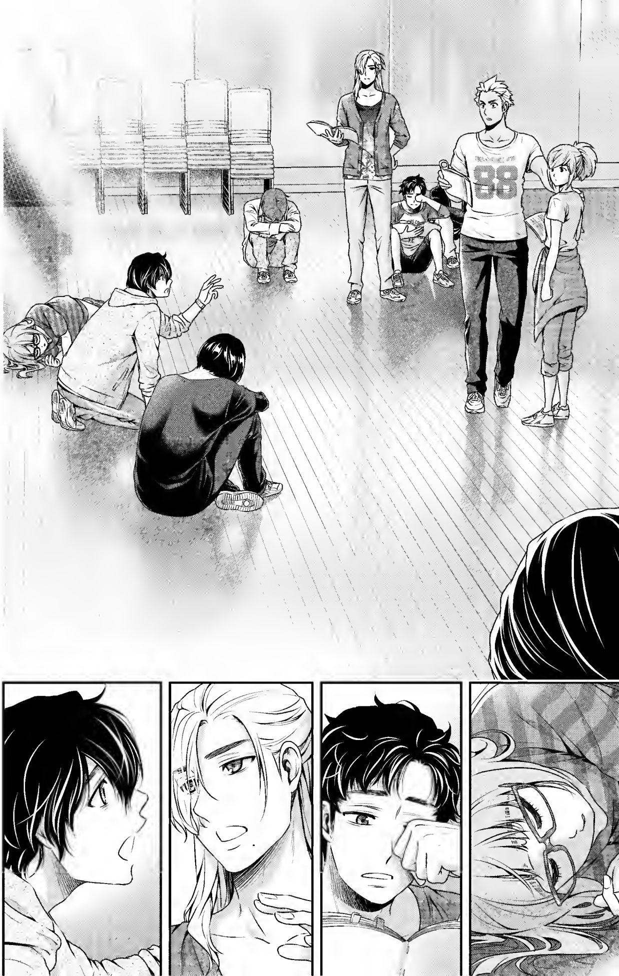
*TAKARAZUKA REVENUE: AN ALL-FEMALE THEATER TROUPE BASED IN HYOGO PREFECTURE.

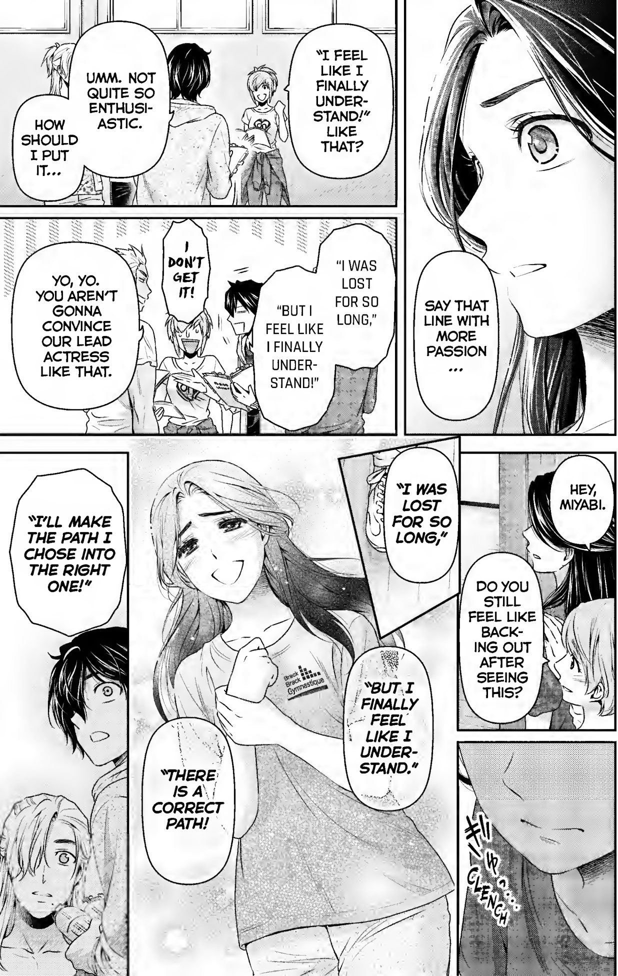

"WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!"
"THE OWNER CARRIED US ON HIS BACK LIKE A TRUSTY STUD!"
ぷっ PFF
WHO'RE YOU CALLIN' A STUD?
READ CAREFULLY. IT SAYS STEED, NOT STUD.
AH!
HA, HA! THAT MISTAKE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY FUNNY.
WHY DON'T WE USE IT?
I LIKE IT. IT FITS THE CHARACTERS, TOO.
IT MAKES IT FEEL LIKE A SKIT.
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD CUT THE SOUND THERE.
THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR THE AUDIENCE TO GET THE PUNCHLINE.
SOUND DIRECTOR YUJI HIYAMA (THIRD-YEAR)
GOOD POINT!
WHEN'D YOU GET HERE, HIYAMA-KUN?
JUST NOW. RYU CALLED ME OUT.
OKAY, LET'S PICK IT BACK UP, PLEASE!
SURE.
I'LL GO GET SOME LABELS.

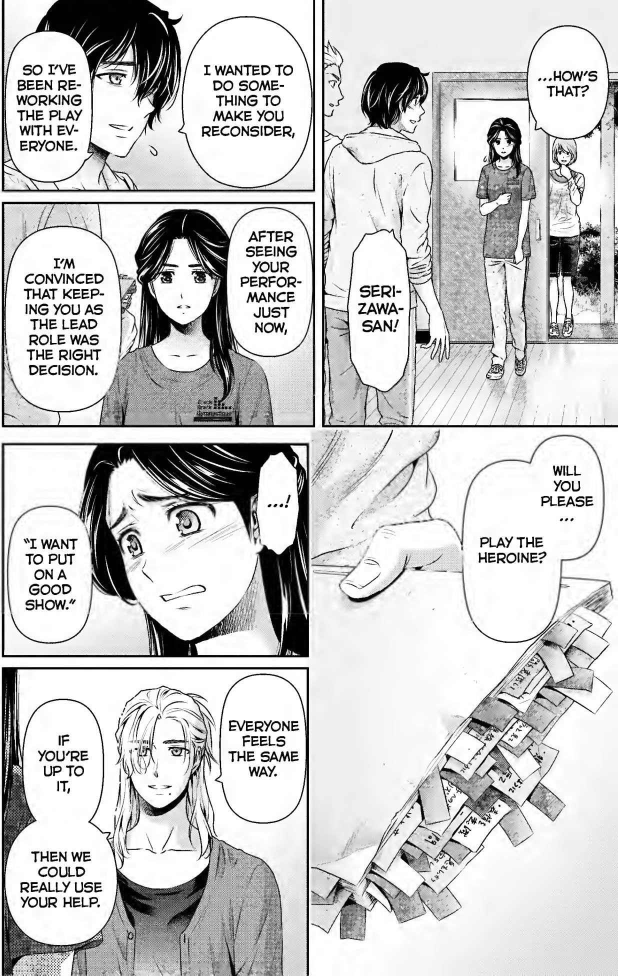

FAVO
TOGEN-SENSEI WAS RIGHT.
THIS IS NOTHING LIKE WRITING A NOVEL.
THEATER...
...ISN'T SOMETHING YOU MAKE BY YOURSELF.
IT'S A GROUP EFFORT.

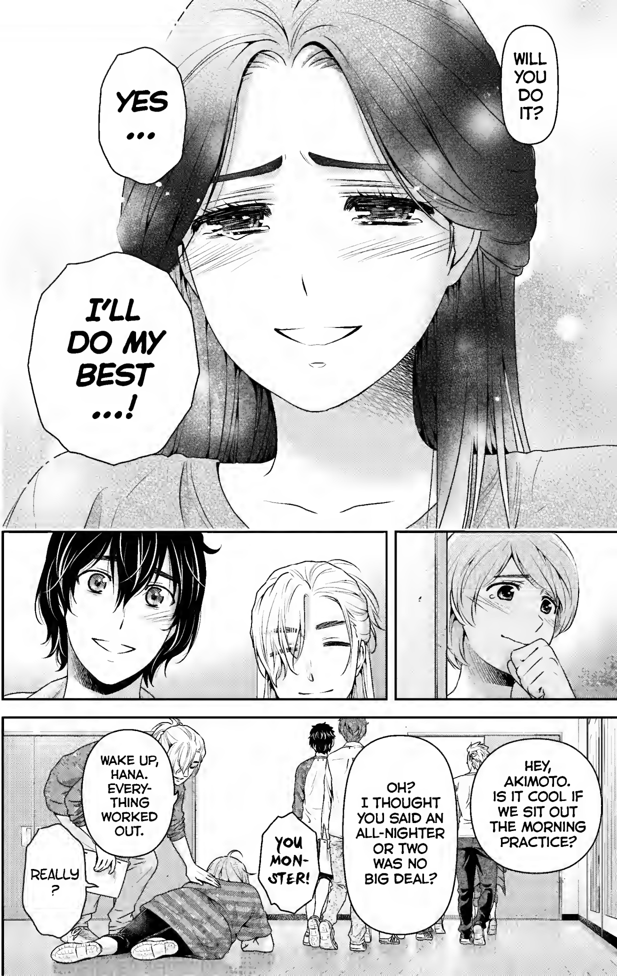

SQUEE キュッ
HEY, MIYABI.
YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER.
ABOUT WHAT?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT. ABOUT THE ROLE.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I?
FRANKLY, I DON'T TRUST HIM.
FOR STARTERS, THE SCRIPT HIS GIRLFRIEND BROUGHT TO THE CLUB WAS WRITTEN IN A GIRL'S HANDWRITING.
I BET THE PLAY WASN'T EVEN HIS IDEA.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT!
THE FACT THAT HE COULDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTIONS PROVES IT.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ...
...DECIDE EVERYTHING BY YOURSELF?

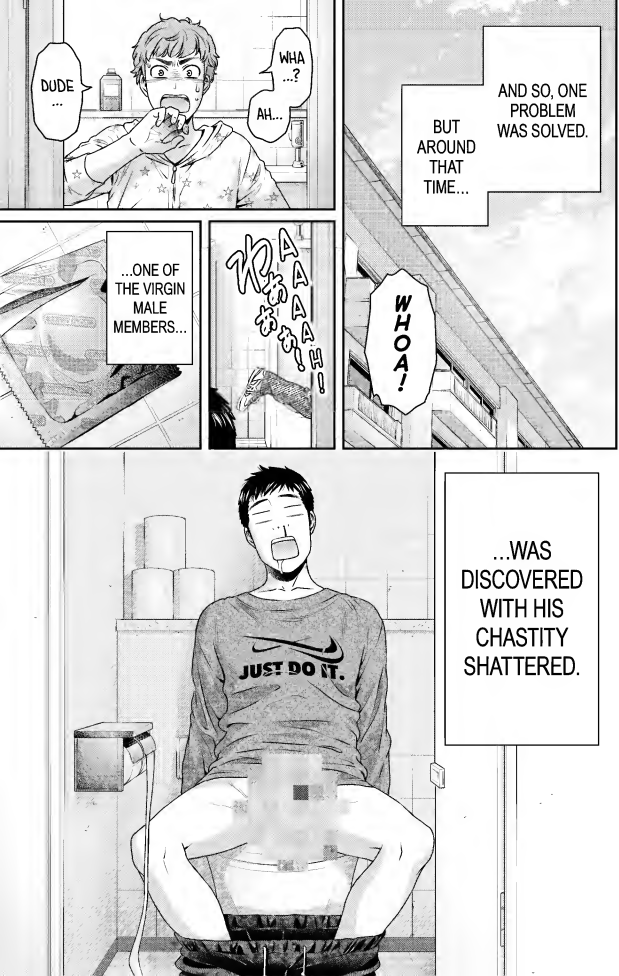

I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED IN HIGH SCHOOL,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WEREN'T AT LEAST SOMEWHAT AT FAULT, EITHER.
THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT THAT THE WAY THEY DID ...
IF YOU'D JUST TRIED TO LISTEN TO EVERY-ONE AND TALK THINGS THROUGH!
THE GROUP ONLY FELL APART BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH COMMUNI-CATION!
FROM MY POINT OF VIEW,
YOU JUST LOOK LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE!
I WONDER WHAT'S FOR BREAK-FAST.
I HOPE THERE ARE RAW EGGS.

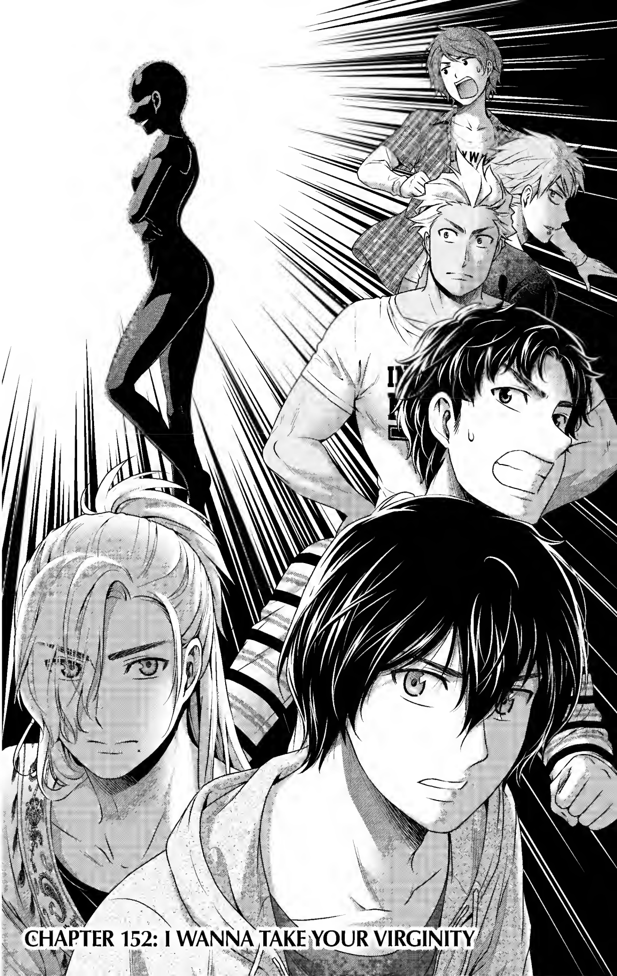

88


SAY THAT LINE WITH MORE PASSION ...
"I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY UNDERSTAND!" LIKE THAT?
UMM. NOT QUITE SO ENTHUSIASTIC.
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
"I WAS LOST FOR SO LONG,"
"BUT I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY UNDERSTAND!"
I DON'T GET IT!
YO, YO. YOU AREN'T GONNA CONVINCE OUR LEAD ACTRESS LIKE THAT.
HEY, MIYABI.
DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE BACKING OUT AFTER SEEING THIS?
ぎゅっ…
CLENCH
"I WAS LOST FOR SO LONG,"
"BUT I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND."
"THERE IS A CORRECT PATH!
"I'LL MAKE THE PATH I CHOSE INTO THE RIGHT ONE!"
Brack Brack Gymnastique

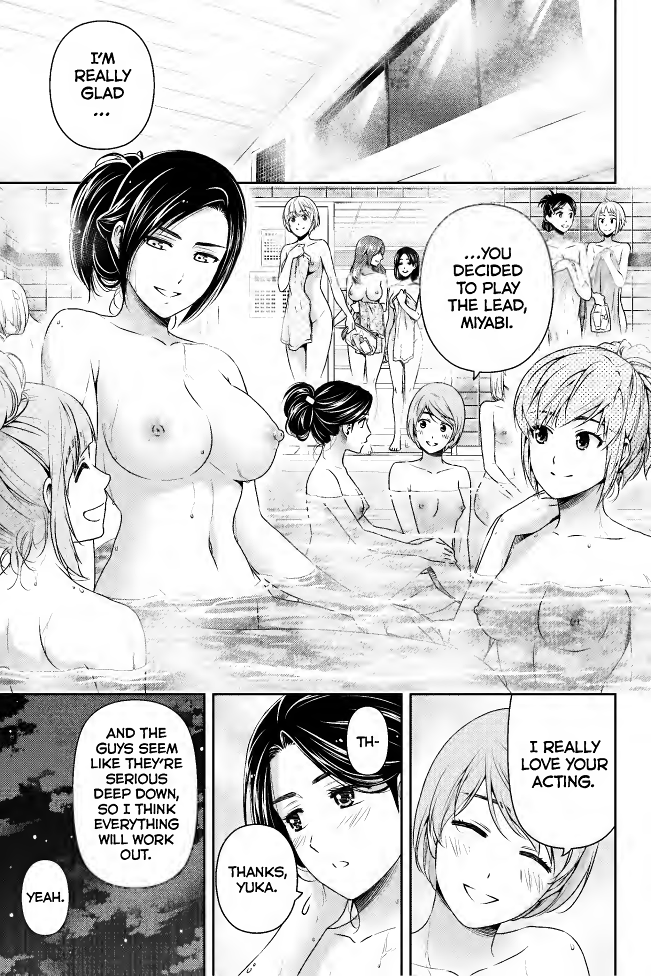

...HOW'S THAT?
SERIZAWA-SAN!
I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU RECONSIDER,
SO I'VE BEEN REWORKING THE PLAY WITH EVERYONE.
AFTER SEEING YOUR PERFORMANCE JUST NOW,
I'M CONVINCED THAT KEEPING YOU AS THE LEAD ROLE WAS THE RIGHT DECISION.
WILL YOU PLEASE...
PLAY THE HEROINE?
...!
"I WANT TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW."
EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME WAY.
IF YOU'RE UP TO IT,
THEN WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP.

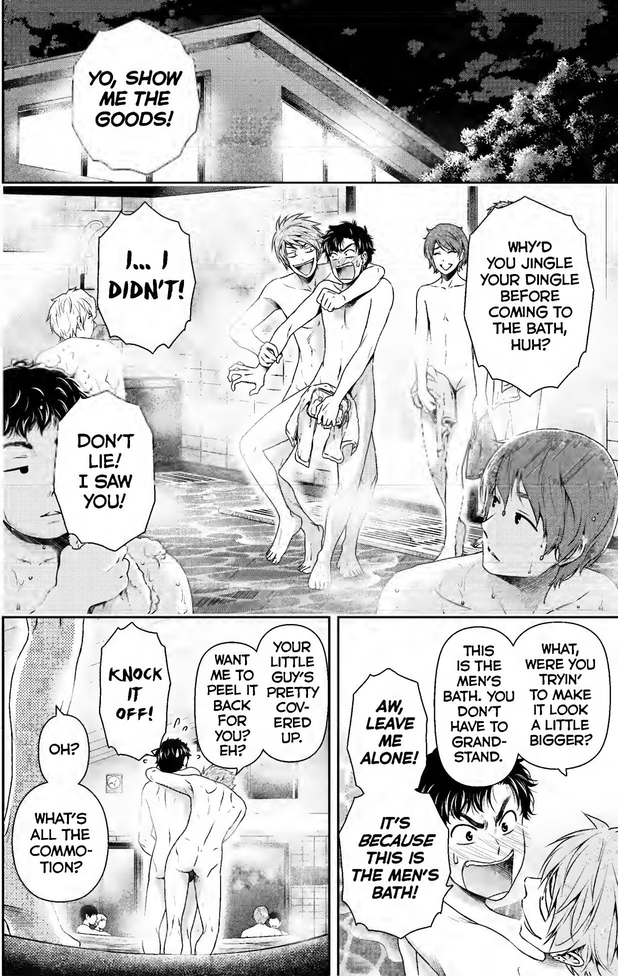

WILL YOU DO IT?
YES...
I'LL DO MY BEST...!
HEY, AKIMOTO. IS IT COOL IF WE SIT OUT THE MORNING PRACTICE?
OH? I THOUGHT YOU SAID AN ALL-NIGHTER OR TWO WAS NO BIG DEAL?
YOU MONSTER!
WAKE UP, HANA. EVERYTHING WORKED OUT.
REALLY?

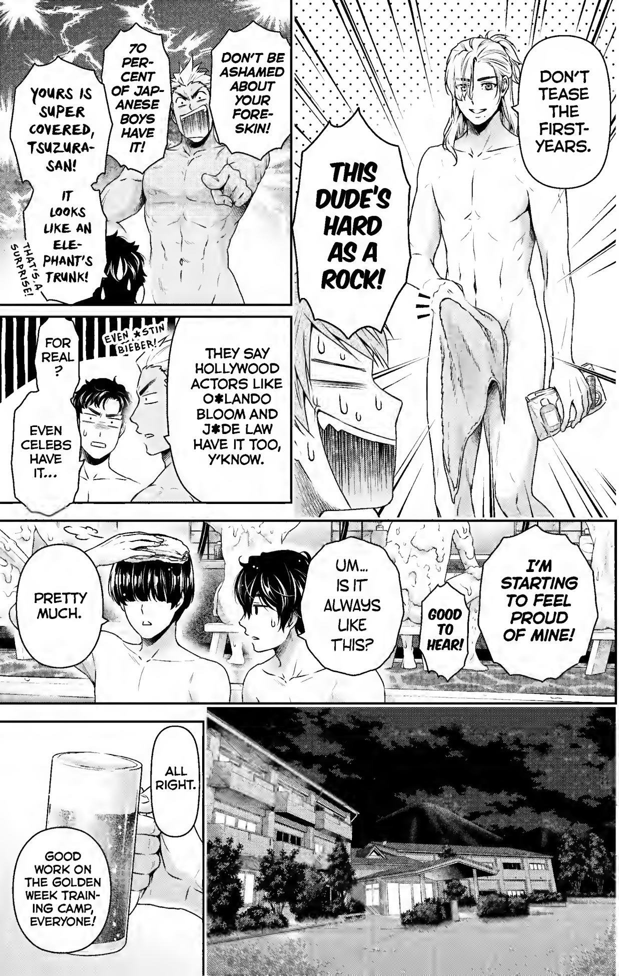

AND SO, ONE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED.
BUT AROUND THAT TIME...
WHOA!
WHA ...?
AH...
DUDE ...
わああああ!
AAAAAH!
...ONE OF THE VIRGIN MALE MEMBERS...
...WAS DISCOVERED WITH HIS CHASTITY SHATTERED.
JUST DO IT.

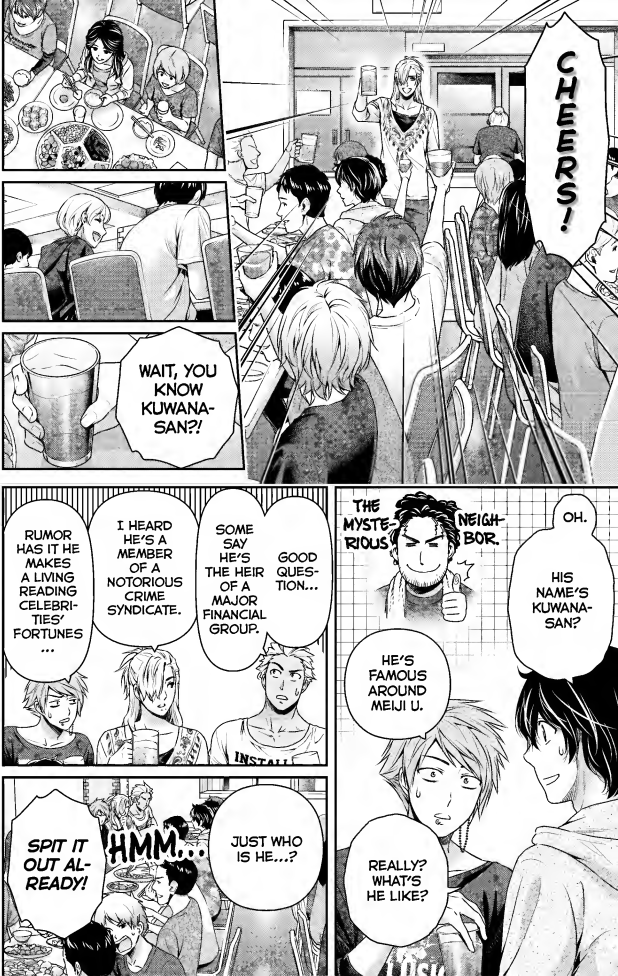


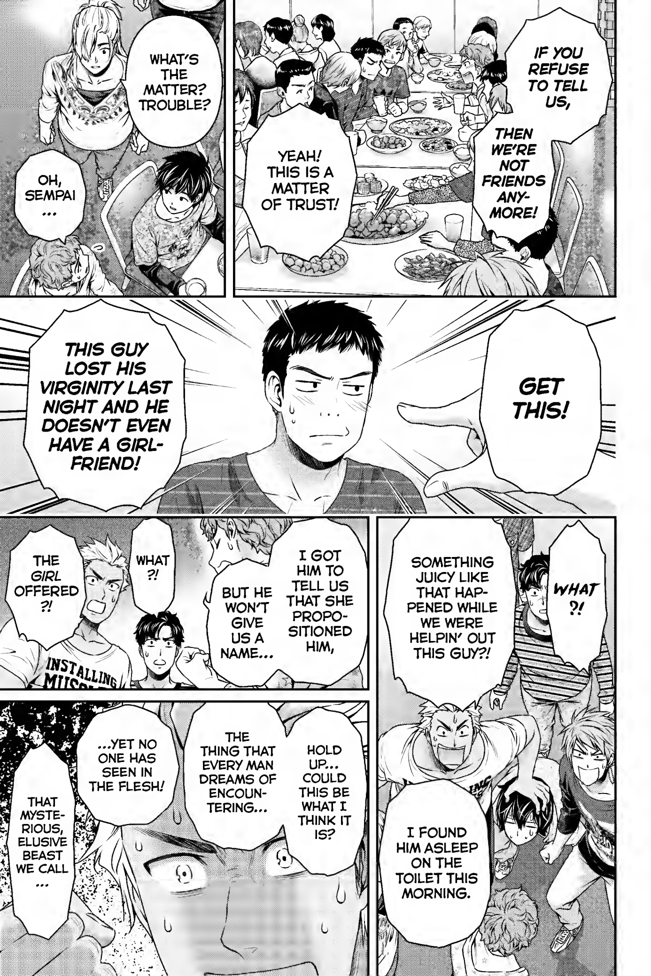
CHAPTER 152: I WANNA TAKE YOUR VIRGINITY

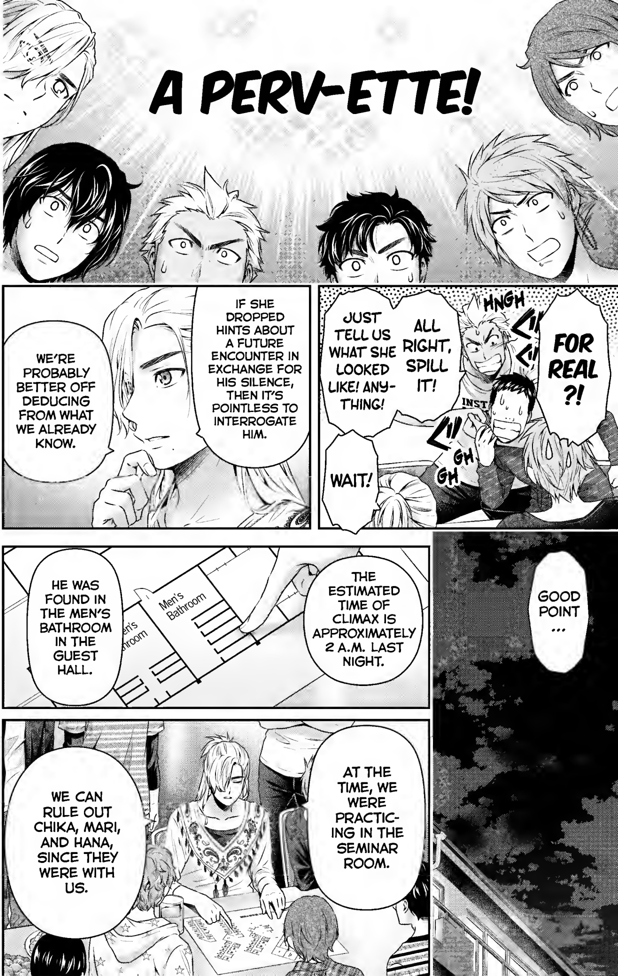

I'M REALLY GLAD ...
...YOU DECIDED TO PLAY THE LEAD, MIYABI.
I REALLY LOVE YOUR ACTING.
TH-
THANKS, YUKA.
AND THE GUYS SEEM LIKE THEY'RE SERIOUS DEEP DOWN, SO I THINK EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT.
YEAH.

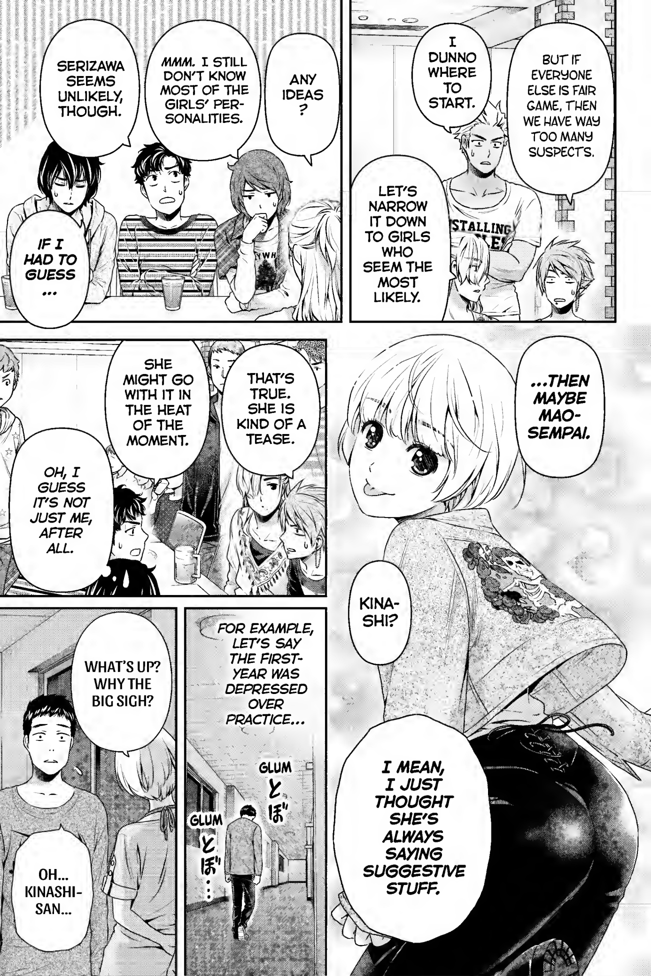

YO, SHOW ME THE GOODS!
WHY'D YOU JINGLE YOUR DINGLE BEFORE COMING TO THE BATH, HUH?
I... I DIDN'T!
DON'T LIE! I SAW YOU!
WHAT, WERE YOU TRYIN' TO MAKE IT LOOK A LITTLE BIGGER?
THIS IS THE MEN'S BATH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GRANDSTAND.
AW, LEAVE ME ALONE!
IT'S BECAUSE THIS IS THE MEN'S BATH!
YOUR LITTLE GUY'S PRETTY COVERED UP.
WANT ME TO PEEL IT BACK FOR YOU? EH?
KNOCK IT OFF!
OH?
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?

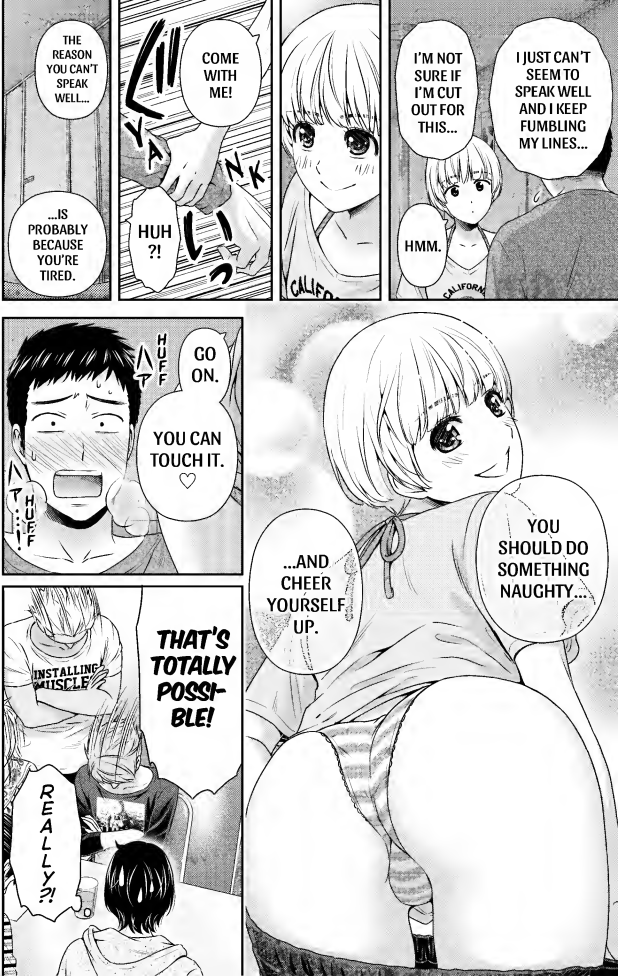

DON'T BE ASHAMED ABOUT YOUR FORESKIN!
70 PERCENT OF JAPANESE BOYS HAVE IT!
YOURS IS SUPER COVERED, TSUZURA-SAN!
IT LOOKS LIKE AN ELEPHANT'S TRUNK!
THAT'S A SURPRISE!
THEY SAY HOLLYWOOD ACTORS LIKE O*LANDO BLOOM AND J*DE LAW HAVE IT TOO, Y'KNOW.
EVEN *STIN BIEBER!
FOR REAL?
EVEN CELEBS HAVE IT...
DON'T TEASE THE FIRST-YEARS.
THIS DUDE'S HARD AS A ROCK!
I'M STARTING TO FEEL PROUD OF MINE!
GOOD TO HEAR!
UM... IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
PRETTY MUCH.
ALL RIGHT.
GOOD WORK ON THE GOLDEN WEEK TRAINING CAMP, EVERYONE!

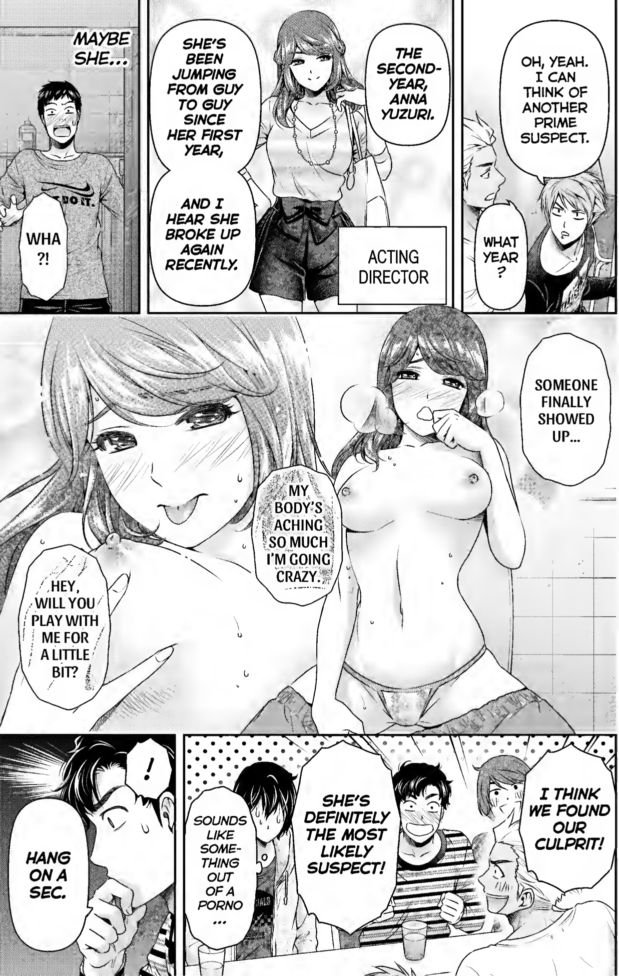

CHEERS!
WAIT, YOU KNOW KUWANA-SAN?!
OH.
HIS NAME'S KUWANA-SAN?
HE'S FAMOUS AROUND MEIJI U.
THE MYSTERIOUS NEIGHBOR.
REALLY? WHAT'S HE LIKE?
GOOD QUESTION...
SOME SAY HE'S THE HEIR OF A MAJOR FINANCIAL GROUP.
I HEARD HE'S A MEMBER OF A NOTORIOUS CRIME SYNDICATE.
RUMOR HAS IT HE MAKES A LIVING READING CELEBRITIES' FORTUNES...
INSTALL
JUST WHO IS HE...?
HMM...
SPIT IT OUT ALREADY!

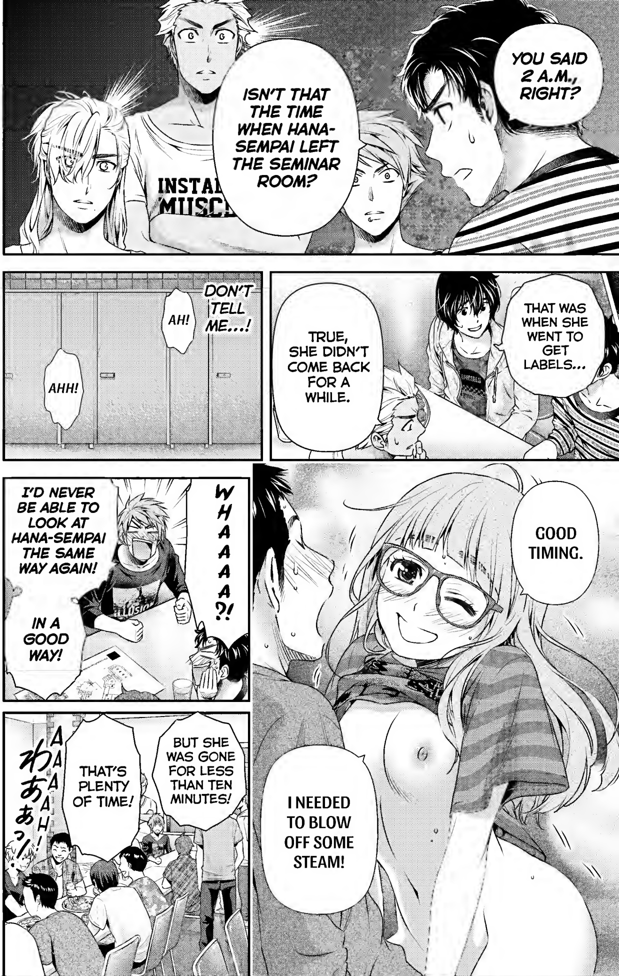

IF YOU REFUSE TO TELL US,
THEN WE'RE NOT FRIENDS ANYMORE!
YEAH! THIS IS A MATTER OF TRUST!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? TROUBLE?
OH, SEMPAI ...
GET THIS!
THIS GUY LOST HIS VIRGINITY LAST NIGHT AND HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A GIRLFRIEND!
WHAT?!
SOMETHING JUICY LIKE THAT HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE HELPIN' OUT THIS GUY?!
I FOUND HIM ASLEEP ON THE TOILET THIS MORNING.
I GOT HIM TO TELL US THAT SHE PROPOSITIONED HIM,
BUT HE WON'T GIVE US A NAME...
WHAT?!
THE GIRL OFFERED?!
INSTALLING
HOLD UP... COULD THIS BE WHAT I THINK IT IS?
THE THING THAT EVERY MAN DREAMS OF ENCOUNTERING...
...YET NO ONE HAS SEEN IN THE FLESH!
THAT MYSTERIOUS, ELUSIVE BEAST WE CALL ...

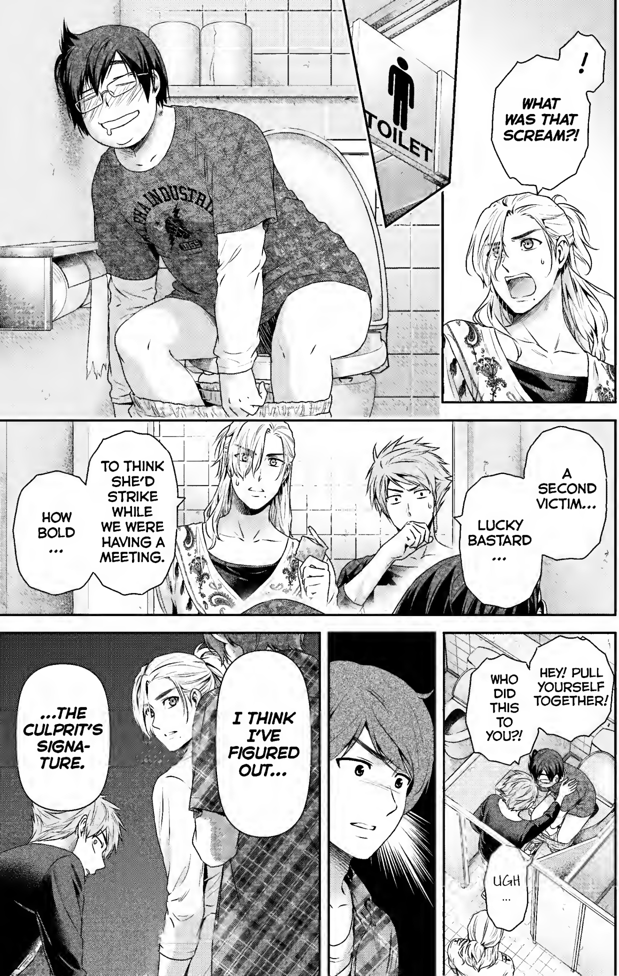

A PERV-ETTE!
FOR REAL?!
HNGH
ALL RIGHT, SPILL IT!
JUST TELL US WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE! ANYTHING!
INST
GH GH
WAIT!
IF SHE DROPPED HINTS ABOUT A FUTURE ENCOUNTER IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SILENCE, THEN IT'S POINTLESS TO INTERROGATE HIM.
WE'RE PROBABLY BETTER OFF DEDUCING FROM WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW.
GOOD POINT ...
THE ESTIMATED TIME OF CLIMAX IS APPROXIMATELY 2 A.M. LAST NIGHT.
Men's Bathroom
en's room
HE WAS FOUND IN THE MEN'S BATHROOM IN THE GUEST HALL.
AT THE TIME, WE WERE PRACTICING IN THE SEMINAR ROOM.
WE CAN RULE OUT CHIKA, MARI, AND HANA, SINCE THEY WERE WITH US.

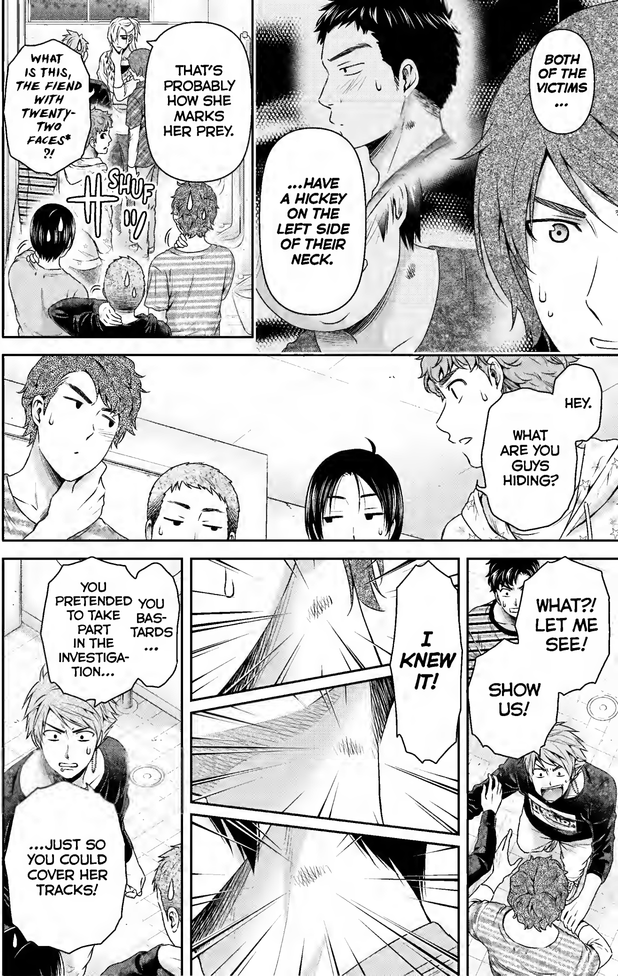

BUT IF EVERYONE ELSE IS FAIR GAME, THEN WE HAVE WAY TOO MANY SUSPECTS.
I DUNNO WHERE TO START.
LET'S NARROW IT DOWN TO GIRLS WHO SEEM THE MOST LIKELY.
ANY IDEAS?
MMM. I STILL DON'T KNOW MOST OF THE GIRLS' PERSONALITIES.
SERIZAWA SEEMS UNLIKELY, THOUGH.
IF I HAD TO GUESS...
...THEN MAYBE MAO-SEMPAI.
I MEAN, I JUST THOUGHT SHE'S ALWAYS SAYING SUGGESTIVE STUFF.
THAT'S TRUE. SHE IS KIND OF A TEASE.
SHE MIGHT GO WITH IT IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT.
OH, I GUESS IT'S NOT JUST ME, AFTER ALL.
FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY THE FIRST-YEAR WAS DEPRESSED OVER PRACTICE...
GLUM とぼ
GLUM とぼ...
KINASHI?
WHAT'S UP? WHY THE BIG SIGH?
OH... KINASHI-SAN...


I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO SPEAK WELL AND I KEEP FUMBLING MY LINES...
I'M NOT SURE IF I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS...
HMM.
CALIFORNIA
CALIFO
COME WITH ME!
YANK
ぐいっ
HUH?!
THE REASON YOU CAN'T SPEAK WELL...
...IS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE TIRED.
YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING NAUGHTY...
...AND CHEER YOURSELF UP.
GO ON.
YOU CAN TOUCH IT. ♡
HUFF ハァ
HUFF ハァ...!
THAT'S TOTALLY POSSIBLE!
INSTALLING MUSCLE
REALLY?!

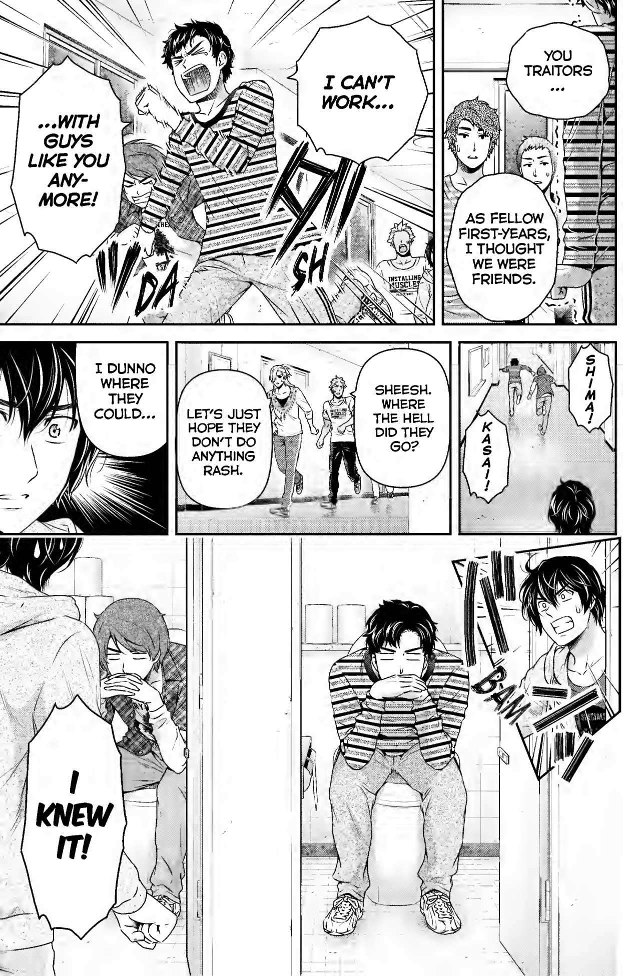

OH, YEAH. I CAN THINK OF ANOTHER PRIME SUSPECT.
WHAT YEAR?
THE SECOND-YEAR, ANNA YUZURI.
SHE'S BEEN JUMPING FROM GUY TO GUY SINCE HER FIRST YEAR,
AND I HEAR SHE BROKE UP AGAIN RECENTLY.
ACTING DIRECTOR
MAYBE SHE...
WHA?!
SOMEONE FINALLY SHOWED UP...
MY BODY'S ACHING SO MUCH I'M GOING CRAZY.
HEY, WILL YOU PLAY WITH ME FOR A LITTLE BIT?
I THINK WE FOUND OUR CULPRIT!
SHE'S DEFINITELY THE MOST LIKELY SUSPECT!
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A PORNO...
!
HANG ON A SEC.

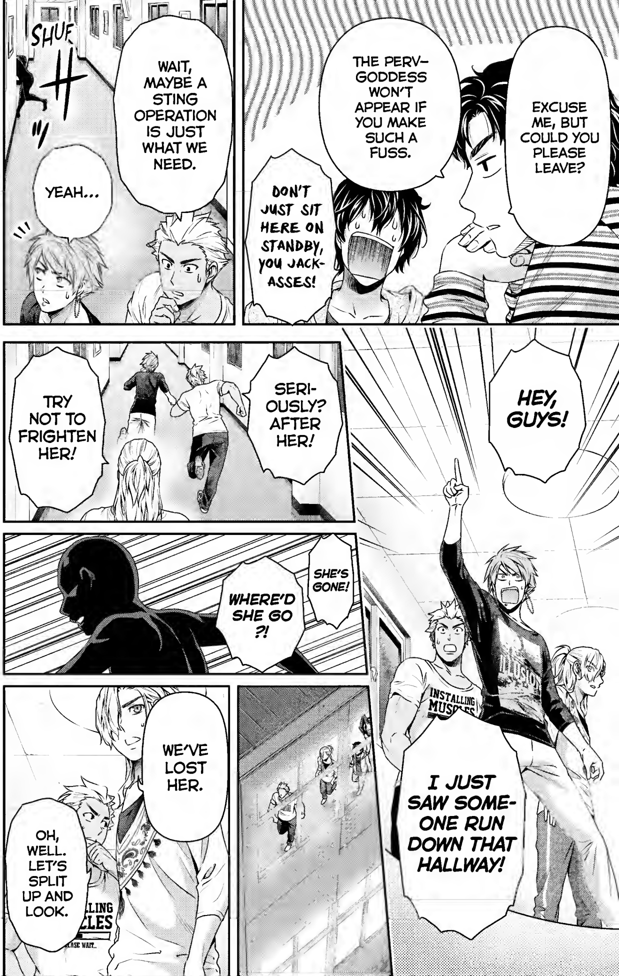

YOU SAID 2 A.M., RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT THE TIME WHEN HANA-SEMPAI LEFT THE SEMINAR ROOM?
THAT WAS WHEN SHE WENT TO GET LABELS...
TRUE, SHE DIDN'T COME BACK FOR A WHILE.
DON'T TELL ME...!
AH!
AHH!
GOOD TIMING.
I NEEDED TO BLOW OFF SOME STEAM!
WHAAAAAA?!
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT HANA-SEMPAI THE SAME WAY AGAIN!
IN A GOOD WAY!
BUT SHE WAS GONE FOR LESS THAN TEN MINUTES!
THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME!
AAAAH!
わああっ!

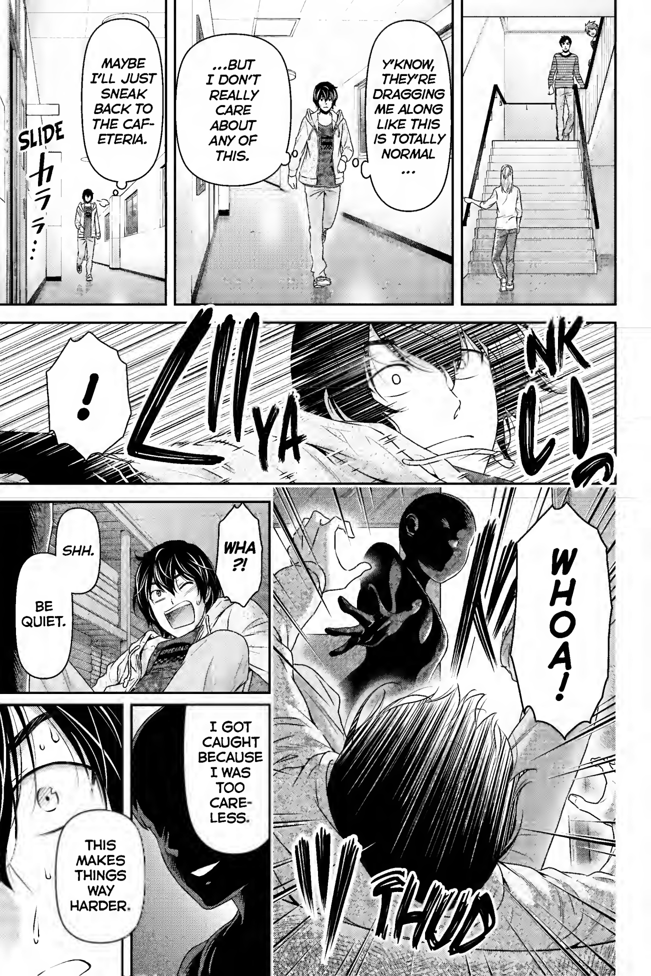

!
WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM?!
TOILET
ALPHA INDUSTRI
A SECOND VICTIM...
LUCKY BASTARD...
TO THINK SHE'D STRIKE WHILE WE WERE HAVING A MEETING.
HOW BOLD...
HEY! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!
UGH...
I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT...
...THE CULPRIT'S SIGNATURE.

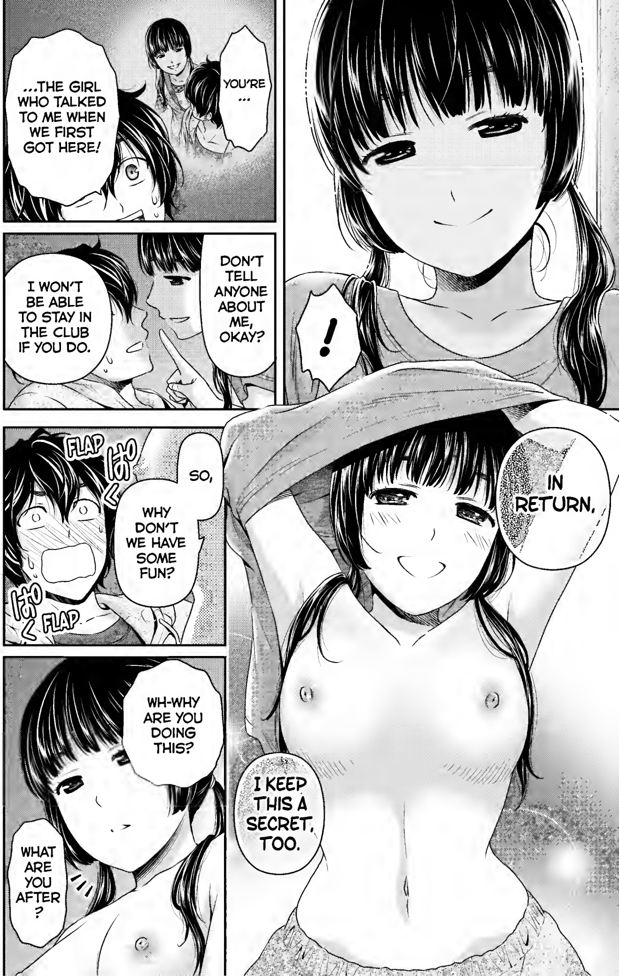

BOTH OF THE VICTIMS...
...HAVE A HICKEY ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THEIR NECK.
THAT'S PROBABLY HOW SHE MARKS HER PREY.
WHAT IS THIS, THE FIEND WITH TWENTY-TWO FACES*?!
SHUF
HEY.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS HIDING?
WHAT?! LET ME SEE!
SHOW US!
I KNEW IT!
YOU BASTARDS...
YOU PRETENDED TO TAKE PART IN THE INVESTIGATION...
...JUST SO YOU COULD COVER HER TRACKS!

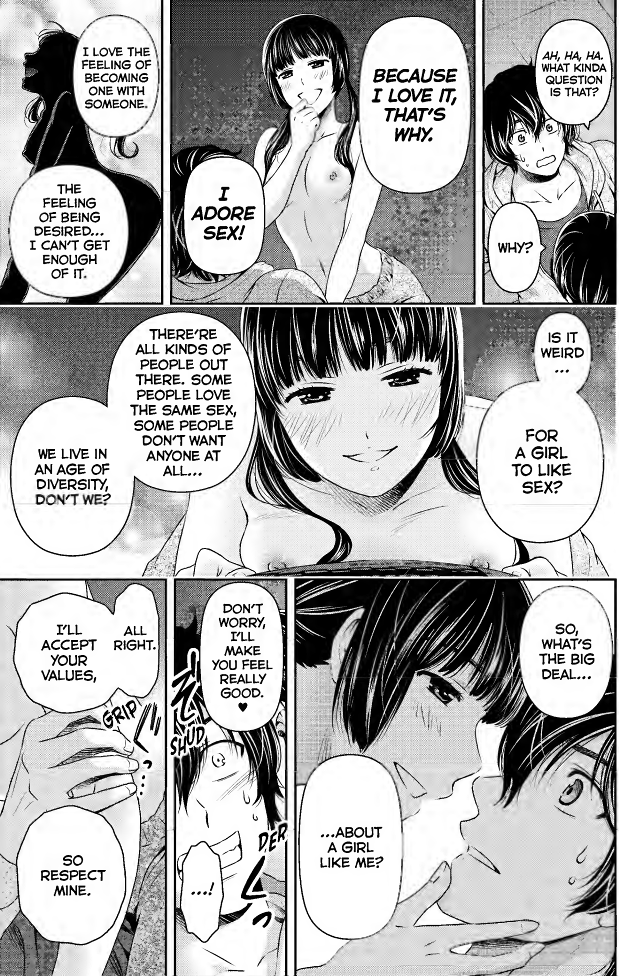
*REFERENCING THE FAMOUS PHANTOM THIEF CHARACTER CREATED BY EDOGAWA RANPO

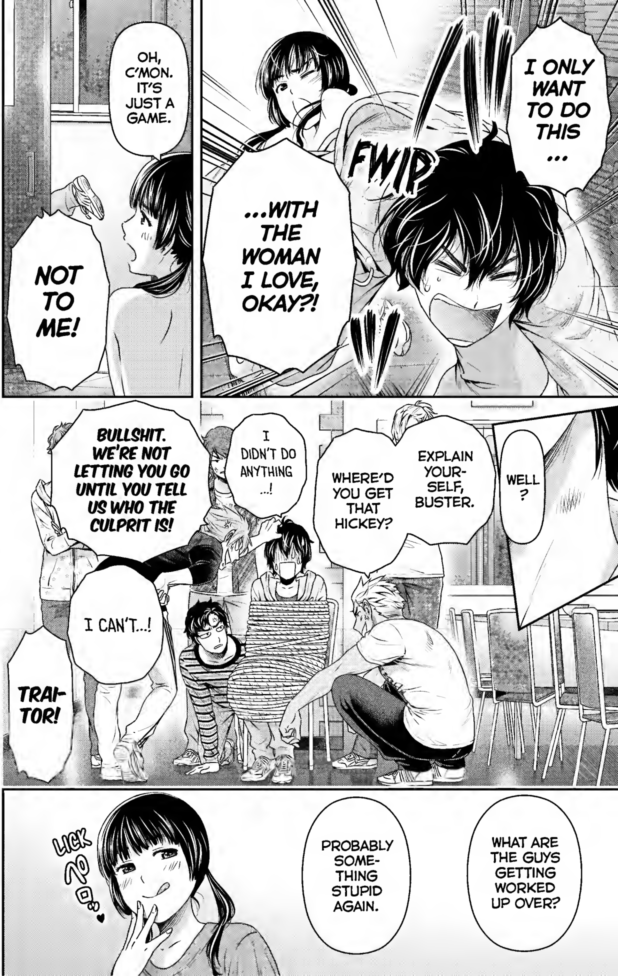

YOU TRAITORS ...
AS FELLOW FIRST-YEARS, I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.
I CAN'T WORK...
...WITH GUYS LIKE YOU ANYMORE!
DASH
INSTALLING MUSCLES
SHIMA!
KASAI!
SHEESH. WHERE THE HELL DID THEY GO?
LET'S JUST HOPE THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH.
INSTALLING MUSCLES
I DUNNO WHERE THEY COULD...
BAM
I KNEW IT!


EXCUSE ME, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE?
THE PERV-GODDESS WON'T APPEAR IF YOU MAKE SUCH A FUSS.
DON'T JUST SIT HERE ON STANDBY, YOU JACKASSES!
SHUFF
WAIT, MAYBE A STING OPERATION IS JUST WHAT WE NEED.
YEAH...
HEY, GUYS!
I JUST SAW SOMEONE RUN DOWN THAT HALLWAY!
INSTALLING MUSCLES
SERIOUSLY? AFTER HER!
TRY NOT TO FRIGHTEN HER!
SHE'S GONE!
WHERE'D SHE GO?!
WE'VE LOST HER.
OH, WELL. LET'S SPLIT UP AND LOOK.

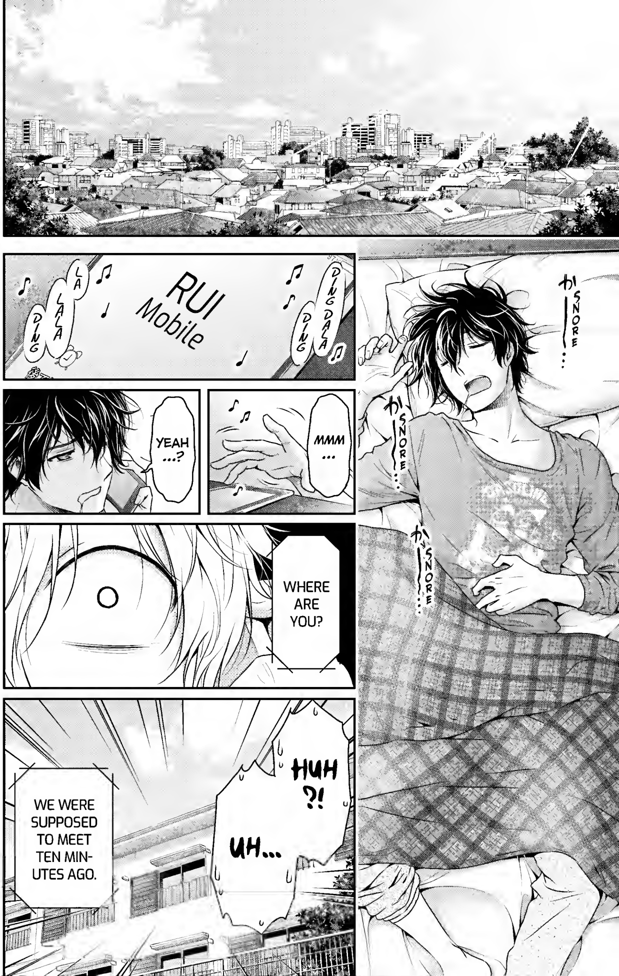

Y'KNOW, THEY'RE DRAGGING ME ALONG LIKE THIS IS TOTALLY NORMAL...
...BUT I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS.
MAYBE I'LL JUST SNEAK BACK TO THE CAFETERIA.
SLIDE
カラララ…
NK
YA
!
WHOA!
THUD
WHA?!
SHH.
BE QUIET.
I GOT CAUGHT BECAUSE I WAS TOO CARELESS.
THIS MAKES THINGS WAY HARDER.

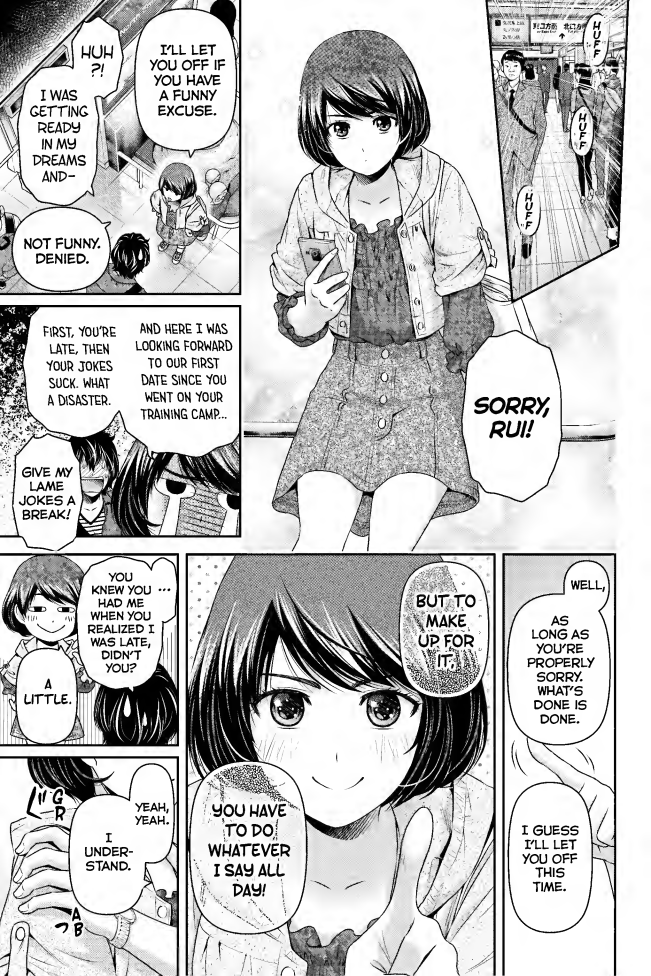

YOU'RE ...
...THE GIRL WHO TALKED TO ME WHEN WE FIRST GOT HERE!
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT ME, OKAY?
I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE CLUB IF YOU DO.
!
IN RETURN,
I KEEP THIS A SECRET, TOO.
SO,
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME FUN?
ぱく FLAP
ぱく FLAP
WH-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

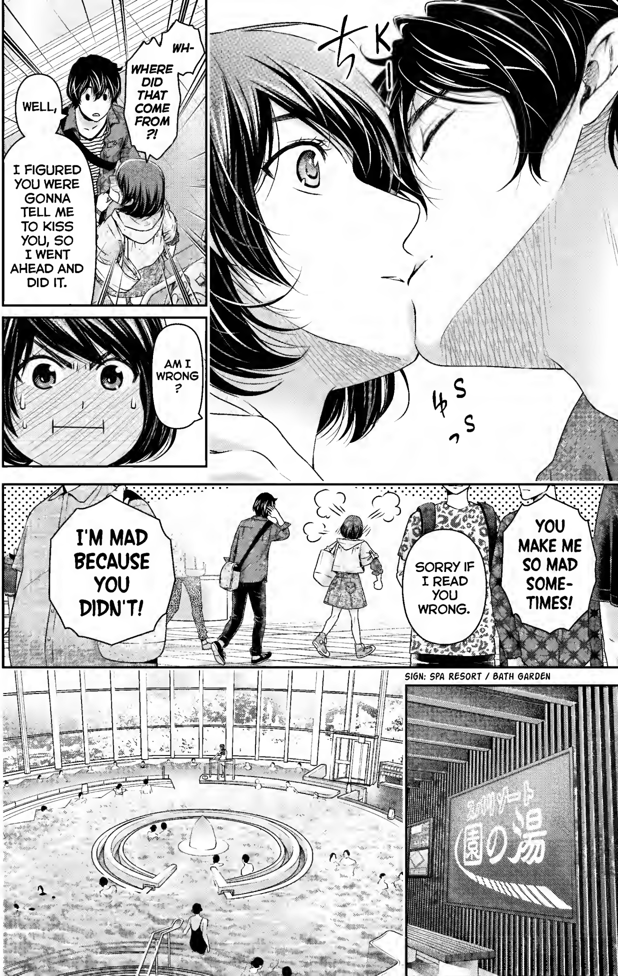

AH, HA, HA. WHAT KINDA QUESTION IS THAT?
WHY?
BECAUSE I LOVE IT, THAT'S WHY.
I ADORE SEX!
I LOVE THE FEELING OF BECOMING ONE WITH SOMEONE.
THE FEELING OF BEING DESIRED... I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT.
IS IT WEIRD...
FOR A GIRL TO LIKE SEX?
THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE. SOME PEOPLE LOVE THE SAME SEX, SOME PEOPLE DON'T WANT ANYONE AT ALL...
WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF DIVERSITY, DON'T WE?
SO, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL...
...ABOUT A GIRL LIKE ME?
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL REALLY GOOD. ♥
SHUD
DER
...!
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL ACCEPT YOUR VALUES,
GRIP
...
SO RESPECT MINE.

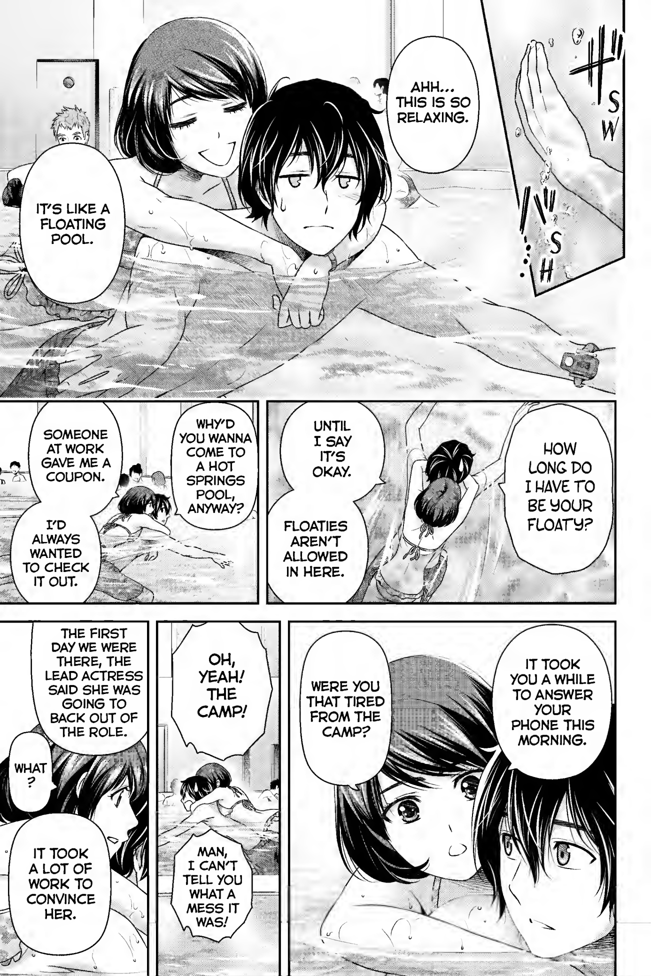

I ONLY WANT TO DO THIS ...
FWIP
...WITH THE WOMAN I LOVE, OKAY?!
OH, C'MON. IT'S JUST A GAME.
NOT TO ME!
WELL ?
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, BUSTER.
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT HICKEY?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ...!
BULLSHIT. WE'RE NOT LETTING YOU GO UNTIL YOU TELL US WHO THE CULPRIT IS!
I CAN'T...!
TRAITOR!
WHAT ARE THE GUYS GETTING WORKED UP OVER?
PROBABLY SOMETHING STUPID AGAIN.
LICK
ペロ♥

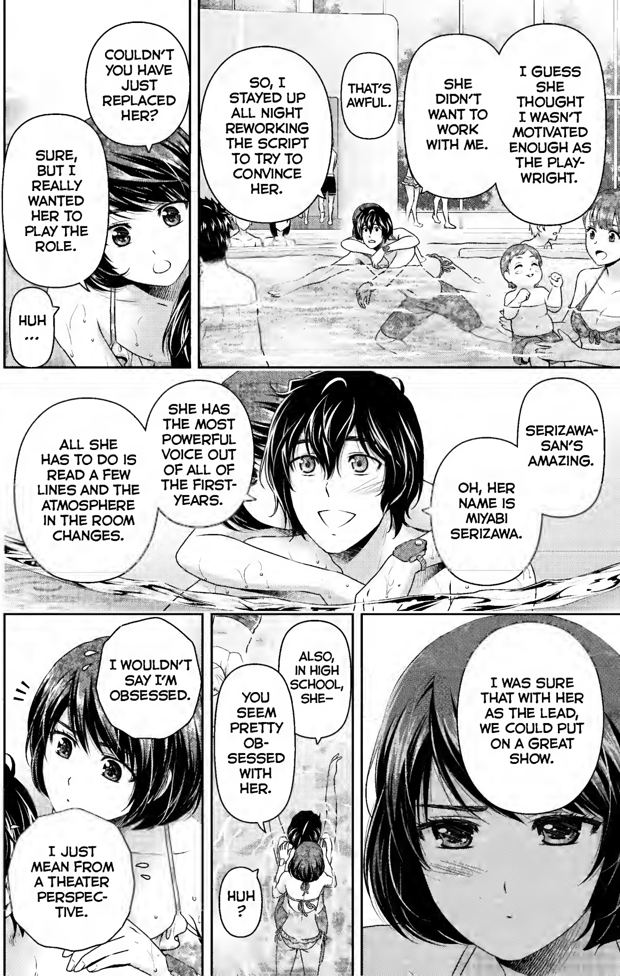
CHAPTER 153: FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP

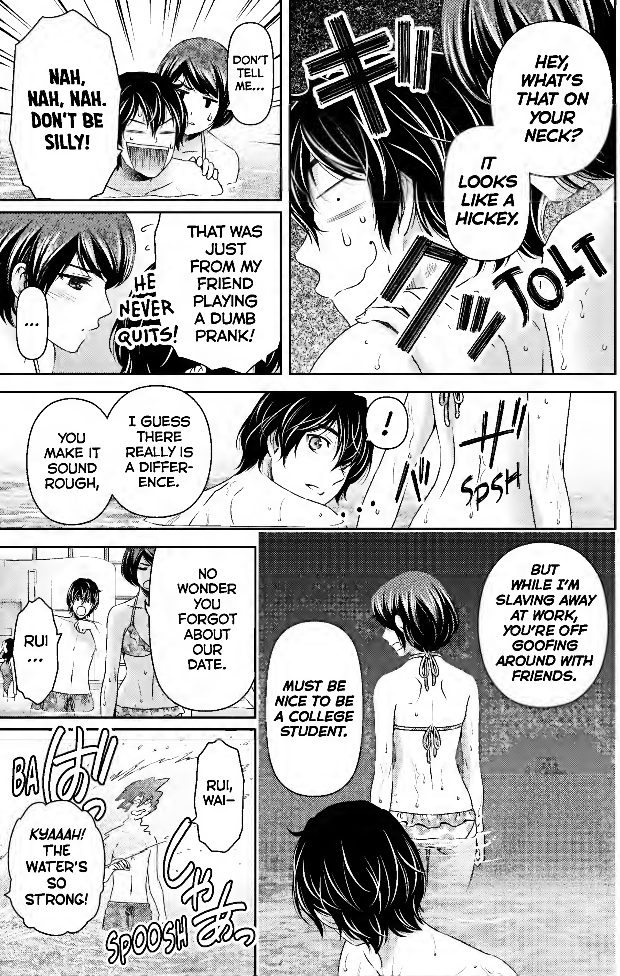

か SNORE…
か SNORE…
か SNORE…
DING DALA DING
RUI Mobile
LA LALA DING
MMM…
YEAH…?
WHERE ARE YOU?
HUH?!
UH…
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET TEN MINUTES AGO.

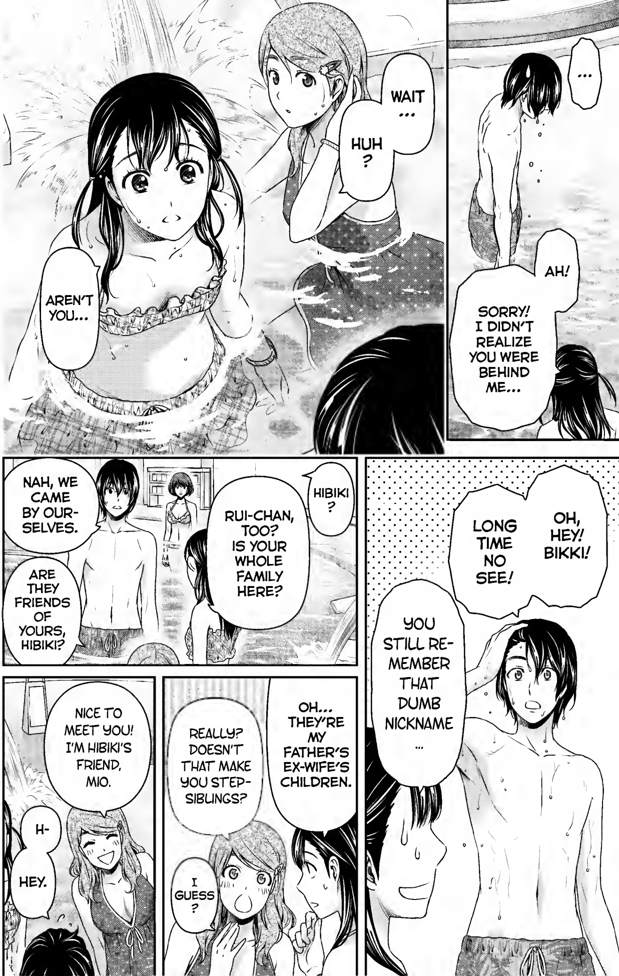

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SORRY, RUI!
I'LL LET YOU OFF IF YOU HAVE A FUNNY EXCUSE.
HUH?!
I WAS GETTING READY IN MY DREAMS AND-
NOT FUNNY. DENIED.
AND HERE I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR FIRST DATE SINCE YOU WENT ON YOUR TRAINING CAMP...
FIRST, YOU'RE LATE, THEN YOUR JOKES SUCK. WHAT A DISASTER.
GIVE MY LAME JOKES A BREAK!
WELL,
AS LONG AS YOU'RE PROPERLY SORRY. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
I GUESS I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME.
BUT TO MAKE UP FOR IT,
YOU HAVE TO DO WHATEVER I SAY ALL DAY!
YOU KNEW YOU HAD ME WHEN YOU REALIZED I WAS LATE, DIDN'T YOU? ...
A LITTLE.
GR
YEAH, YEAH.
I UNDERSTAND.
AB

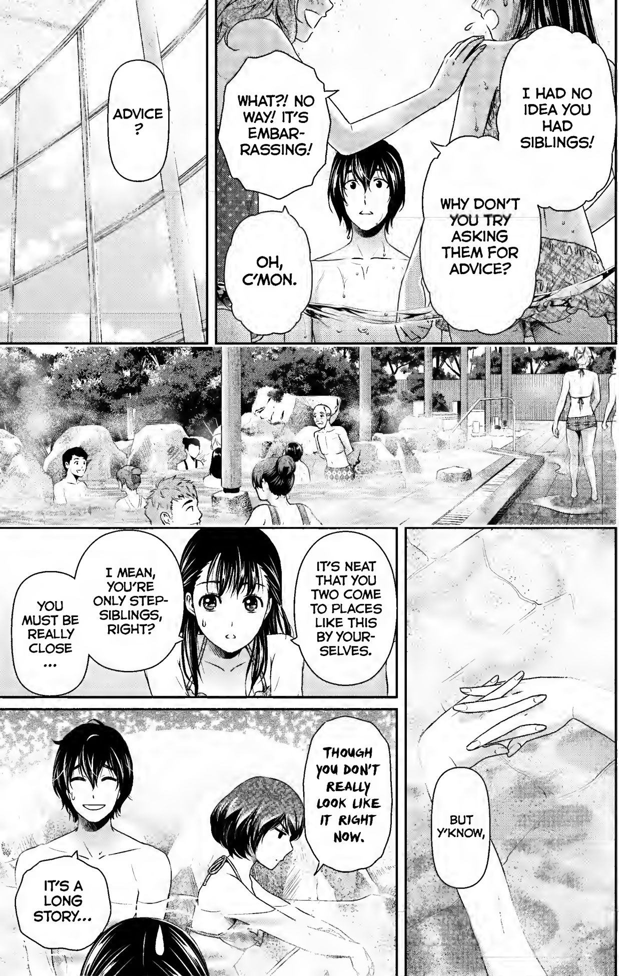

ちK
ちゅSS
WH- WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?!
WELL,
I FIGURED YOU WERE GONNA TELL ME TO KISS YOU, SO I WENT AHEAD AND DID IT.
AM I WRONG?
YOU MAKE ME SO MAD SOMETIMES!
SORRY IF I READ YOU WRONG.
I'M MAD BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T!
SIGN: SPA RESORT / BATH GARDEN
園の湯

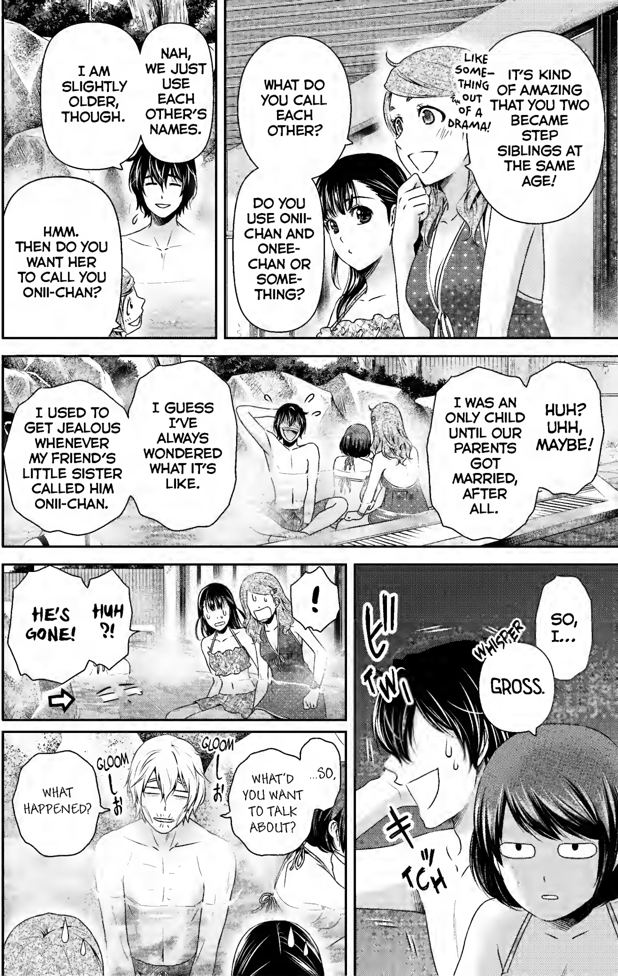

SW
SH
AHH... THIS IS SO RELAXING.
IT'S LIKE A FLOATING POOL.
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO BE YOUR FLOATY?
UNTIL I SAY IT'S OKAY.
FLOATIES AREN'T ALLOWED IN HERE.
WHY'D YOU WANNA COME TO A HOT SPRINGS POOL, ANYWAY?
SOMEONE AT WORK GAVE ME A COUPON.
I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO CHECK IT OUT.
IT TOOK YOU A WHILE TO ANSWER YOUR PHONE THIS MORNING.
WERE YOU THAT TIRED FROM THE CAMP?
OH, YEAH! THE CAMP!
MAN, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT A MESS IT WAS!
THE FIRST DAY WE WERE THERE, THE LEAD ACTRESS SAID SHE WAS GOING TO BACK OUT OF THE ROLE.
WHAT?
IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO CONVINCE HER.

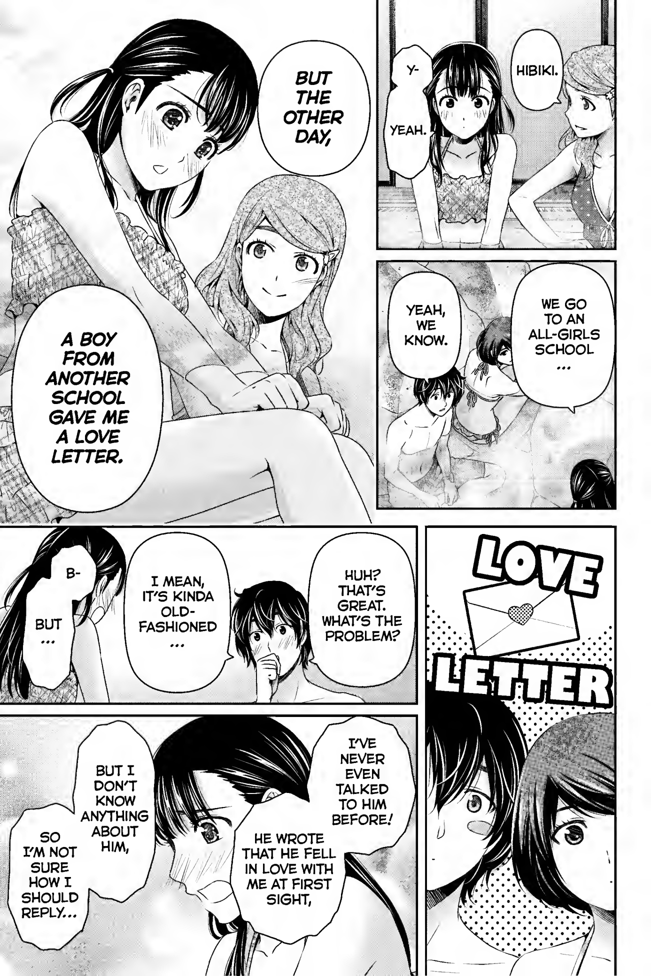

I GUESS SHE THOUGHT I WASN'T MOTIVATED ENOUGH AS THE PLAYWRIGHT.
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO WORK WITH ME.
THAT'S AWFUL.
SO, I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT REWORKING THE SCRIPT TO TRY TO CONVINCE HER.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST REPLACED HER?
SURE, BUT I REALLY WANTED HER TO PLAY THE ROLE.
HUH...
SERIZAWA-SAN'S AMAZING.
OH, HER NAME IS MIYABI SERIZAWA.
SHE HAS THE MOST POWERFUL VOICE OUT OF ALL OF THE FIRST-YEARS.
ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS READ A FEW LINES AND THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE ROOM CHANGES.
I WAS SURE THAT WITH HER AS THE LEAD, WE COULD PUT ON A GREAT SHOW.
ALSO, IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE–
YOU SEEM PRETTY OBSESSED WITH HER.
HUH?
I WOULDN'T SAY I'M OBSESSED.
I JUST MEAN FROM A THEATER PERSPECTIVE.

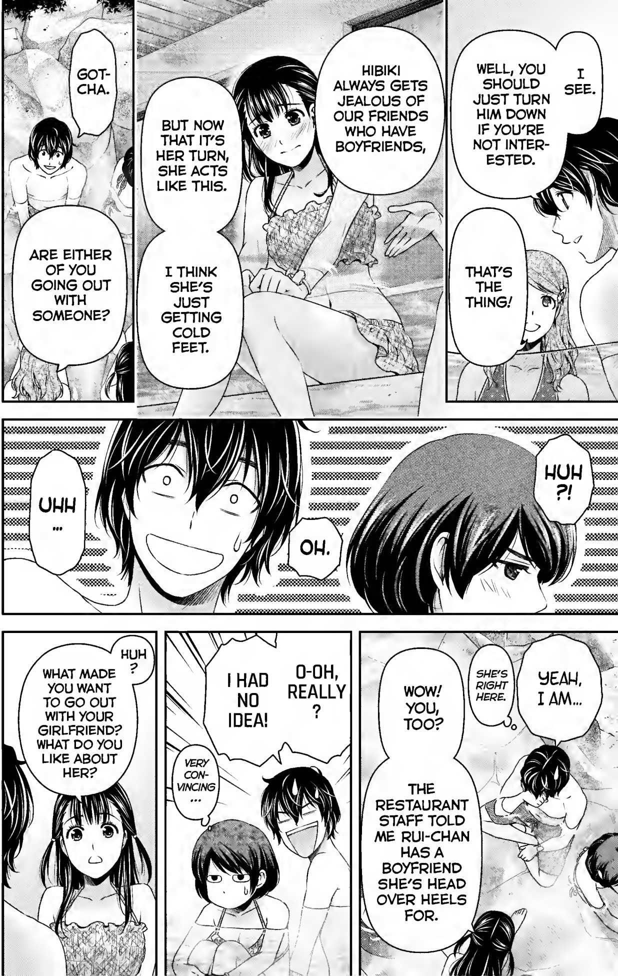

HEY, WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR NECK?
IT LOOKS LIKE A HICKEY.
JOLT
DON'T TELL ME...
NAH, NAH, NAH. DON'T BE SILLY!
THAT WAS JUST FROM MY FRIEND PLAYING A DUMB PRANK!
HE NEVER QUITS!
...
!
SPSH
I GUESS THERE REALLY IS A DIFFERENCE.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND ROUGH,
BUT WHILE I'M SLAVING AWAY AT WORK, YOU'RE OFF GOOFING AROUND WITH FRIENDS.
MUST BE NICE TO BE A COLLEGE STUDENT.
NO WONDER YOU FORGOT ABOUT OUR DATE.
RUI...
RUI, WAI–
BA
KYAAAH! THE WATER'S SO STRONG!
SPOOSH

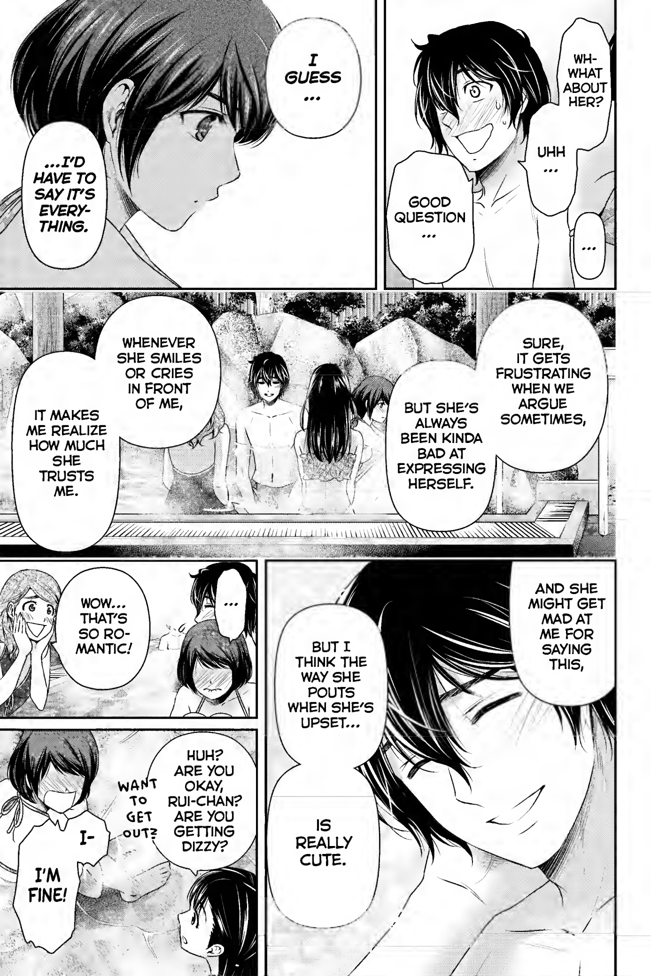

...
AH!
SORRY! I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE BEHIND ME...
WAIT...
HUH?
AREN'T YOU...
OH, HEY! BIKKI!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
YOU STILL REMEMBER THAT DUMB NICKNAME...
HIBIKI?
RUI-CHAN, TOO? IS YOUR WHOLE FAMILY HERE?
NAH, WE CAME BY OURSELVES.
ARE THEY FRIENDS OF YOURS, HIBIKI?
OH... THEY'RE MY FATHER'S EX-WIFE'S CHILDREN.
REALLY? DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU STEP-SIBLINGS?
I GUESS?
NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M HIBIKI'S FRIEND, MIO.
H-
HEY.

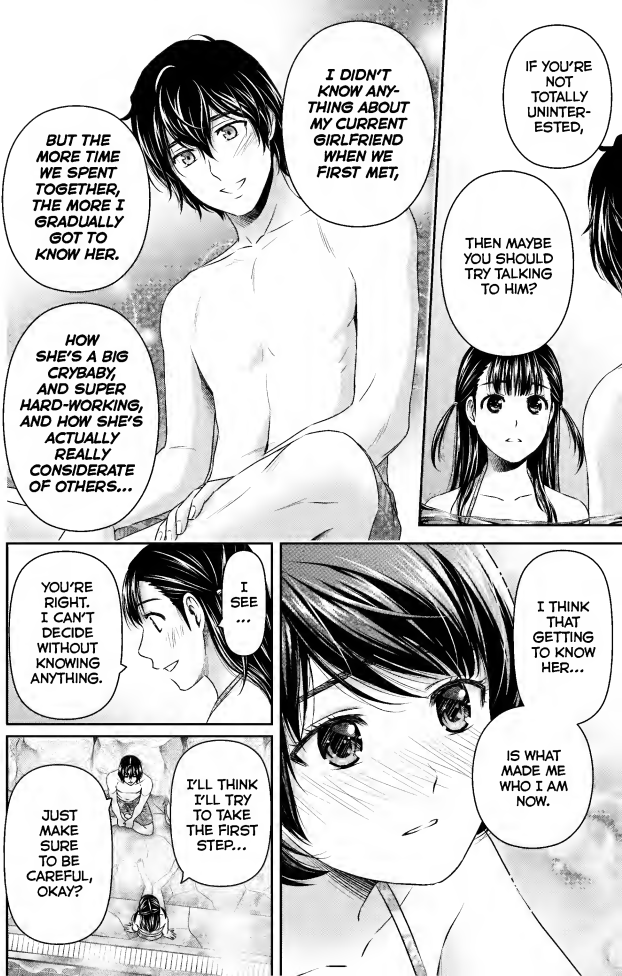

I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD SIBLINGS!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING THEM FOR ADVICE?
WHAT?! NO WAY! IT'S EMBARRASSING!
OH, C'MON.
ADVICE?
IT'S NEAT THAT YOU TWO COME TO PLACES LIKE THIS BY YOURSELVES.
I MEAN, YOU'RE ONLY STEP-SIBLINGS, RIGHT?
YOU MUST BE REALLY CLOSE...
BUT Y'KNOW,
THOUGH YOU DON'T REALLY LOOK LIKE IT RIGHT NOW.
IT'S A LONG STORY...

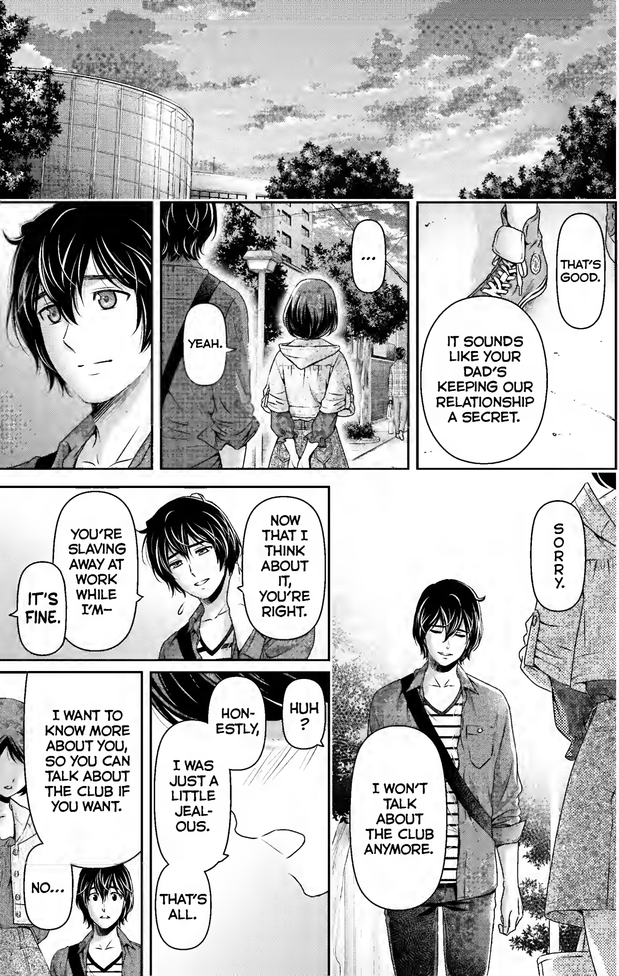

LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DRAMA!
IT'S KIND OF AMAZING THAT YOU TWO BECAME STEP SIBLINGS AT THE SAME AGE!
WHAT DO YOU CALL EACH OTHER?
DO YOU USE ONII-CHAN AND ONEE-CHAN OR SOMETHING?
NAH, WE JUST USE EACH OTHER'S NAMES.
I AM SLIGHTLY OLDER, THOUGH.
HMM. THEN DO YOU WANT HER TO CALL YOU ONII-CHAN?
HUH? UHH, MAYBE!
I WAS AN ONLY CHILD UNTIL OUR PARENTS GOT MARRIED, AFTER ALL.
I GUESS I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT IT'S LIKE.
I USED TO GET JEALOUS WHENEVER MY FRIEND'S LITTLE SISTER CALLED HIM ONII-CHAN.
SO, I...
WHISPER
GROSS.
ビッ
TWI
キッ
TCH
!
HUH?!
HE'S GONE!
...SO, WHAT'D YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
GLOOM しお
GLOOM しお
WHAT HAPPENED?

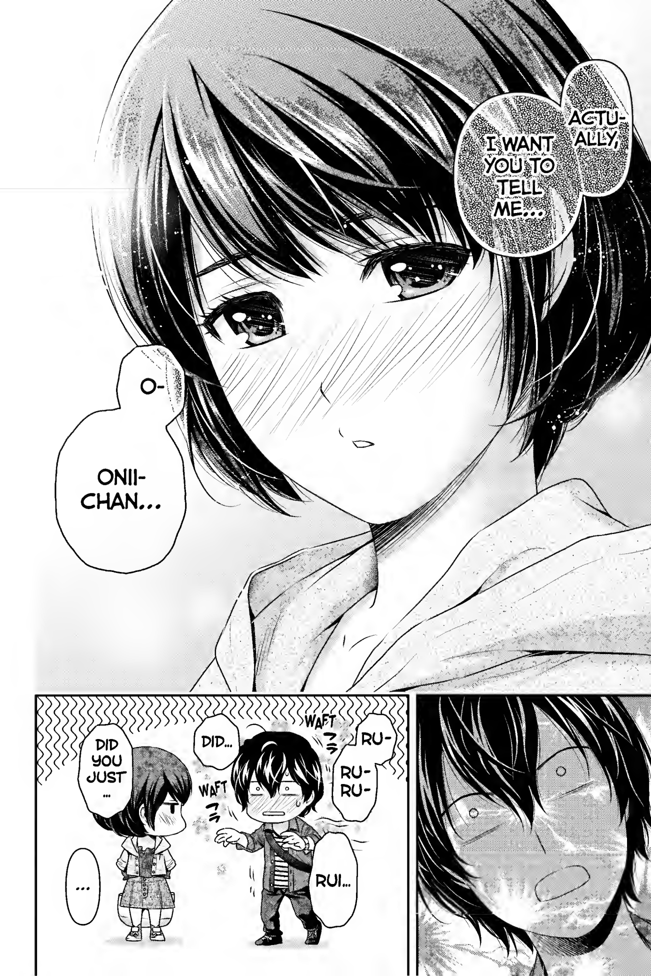

HIBIKI.
Y- YEAH.
WE GO TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL ...
YEAH, WE KNOW.
BUT THE OTHER DAY,
A BOY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL GAVE ME A LOVE LETTER.
LOVE LETTER
HUH? THAT'S GREAT. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I MEAN, IT'S KINDA OLD-FASHIONED ...
B- BUT ...
I'VE NEVER EVEN TALKED TO HIM BEFORE!
HE WROTE THAT HE FELL IN LOVE WITH ME AT FIRST SIGHT,
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM,
SO I'M NOT SURE HOW I SHOULD REPLY...

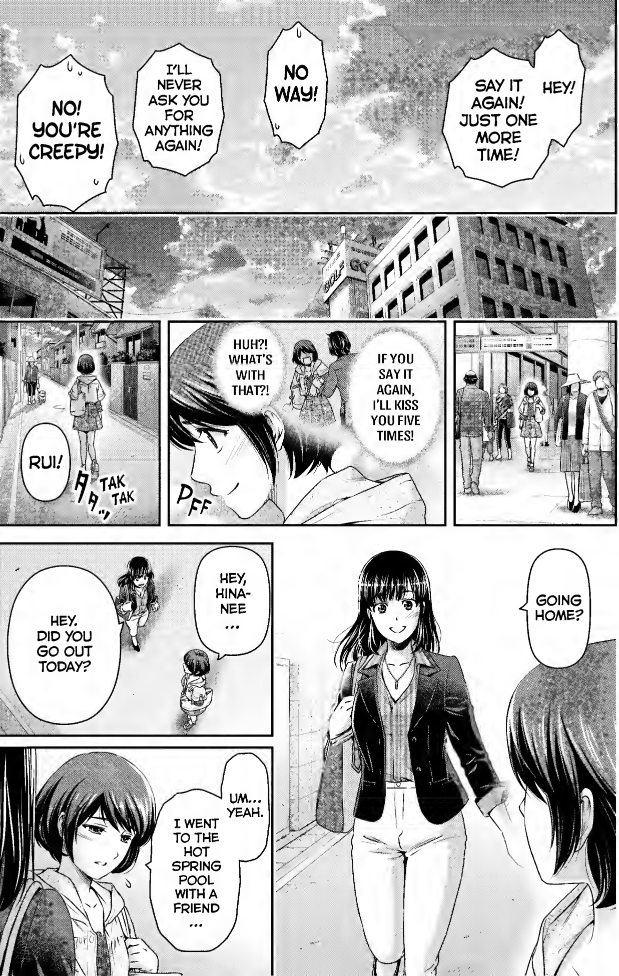

I SEE.
WELL, YOU SHOULD JUST TURN HIM DOWN IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED.
THAT'S THE THING!
HIBIKI ALWAYS GETS JEALOUS OF OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE BOYFRIENDS,
BUT NOW THAT IT'S HER TURN, SHE ACTS LIKE THIS.
I THINK SHE'S JUST GETTING COLD FEET.
GOTCHA.
ARE EITHER OF YOU GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE?
HUH?!
OH.
UHH...
YEAH, I AM...
SHE'S RIGHT HERE.
WOW! YOU, TOO?
THE RESTAURANT STAFF TOLD ME RUI-CHAN HAS A BOYFRIEND SHE'S HEAD OVER HEELS FOR.
O-OH, REALLY?
I HAD NO IDEA!
VERY CONVINCING...
HUH?
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND? WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HER?

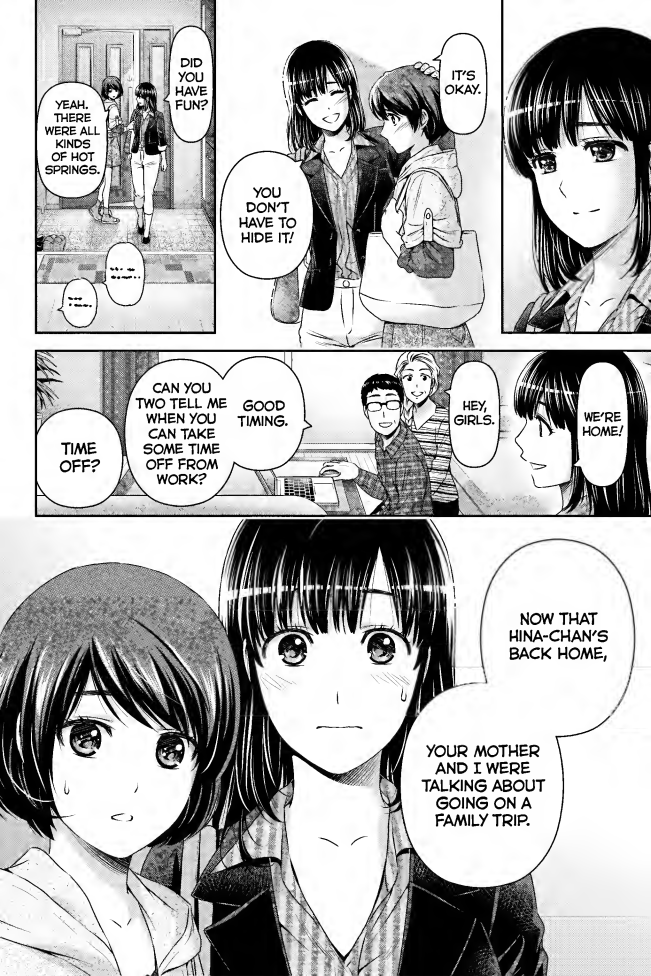

WH-WHAT ABOUT HER?
UHH...
...
GOOD QUESTION...
I GUESS...
...I'D HAVE TO SAY IT'S EVERYTHING.
SURE, IT GETS FRUSTRATING WHEN WE ARGUE SOMETIMES,
BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN KINDA BAD AT EXPRESSING HERSELF.
WHENEVER SHE SMILES OR CRIES IN FRONT OF ME,
IT MAKES ME REALIZE HOW MUCH SHE TRUSTS ME.
AND SHE MIGHT GET MAD AT ME FOR SAYING THIS,
BUT I THINK THE WAY SHE POUTS WHEN SHE'S UPSET...
IS REALLY CUTE.
...
WOW... THAT'S SO ROMANTIC!
HUH? ARE YOU OKAY, RUI-CHAN? ARE YOU GETTING DIZZY?
WANT TO GET OUT?
I-
I'M FINE!


IF YOU'RE NOT TOTALLY UNINTERESTED,
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY TALKING TO HIM?
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY CURRENT GIRLFRIEND WHEN WE FIRST MET,
BUT THE MORE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER, THE MORE I GRADUALLY GOT TO KNOW HER.
HOW SHE'S A BIG CRYBABY, AND SUPER HARD-WORKING, AND HOW SHE'S ACTUALLY REALLY CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS...
I THINK THAT GETTING TO KNOW HER...
IS WHAT MADE ME WHO I AM NOW.
I SEE...
YOU'RE RIGHT. I CAN'T DECIDE WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING.
I'LL THINK I'LL TRY TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP...
JUST MAKE SURE TO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?


THAT'S GOOD.
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR DAD'S KEEPING OUR RELATIONSHIP A SECRET.
...
YEAH.
SORRY.
I WON'T TALK ABOUT THE CLUB ANYMORE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'RE SLAVING AWAY AT WORK WHILE I'M—
IT'S FINE.
HUH?
HONESTLY,
I WAS JUST A LITTLE JEALOUS.
THAT'S ALL.
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, SO YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THE CLUB IF YOU WANT.
NO...

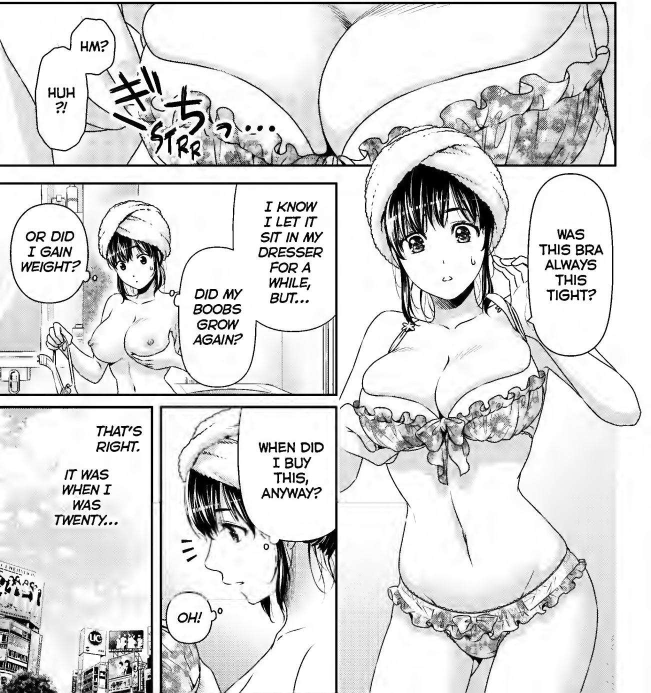

ACTUALLY,
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME...
O-
ONII-CHAN...
RU-
RU-RU-
RUI...
WAFT フラ
DID...
WAFT フラ
DID YOU JUST ...
...

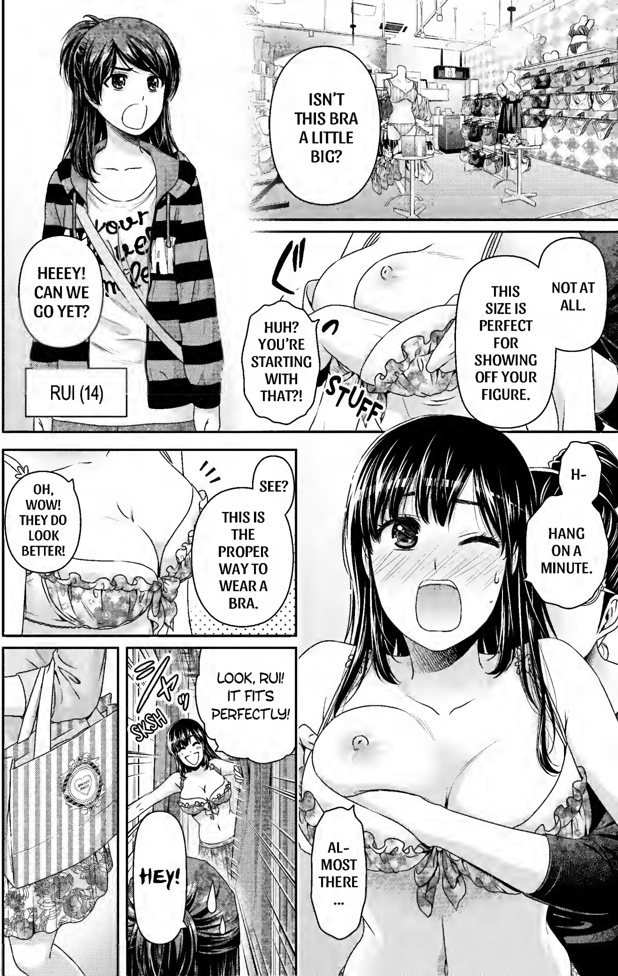

HEY!
SAY IT AGAIN! JUST ONE MORE TIME!
NO WAY!
I'LL NEVER ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING AGAIN!
NO! YOU'RE CREEPY!
GOLF
IF YOU SAY IT AGAIN, I'LL KISS YOU FIVE TIMES!
HUH?! WHAT'S WITH THAT?!
PFF
RUI!
TAK TAK
GOING HOME?
HEY, HINA-NEE...
HEY. DID YOU GO OUT TODAY?
UM... YEAH.
I WENT TO THE HOT SPRING POOL WITH A FRIEND...

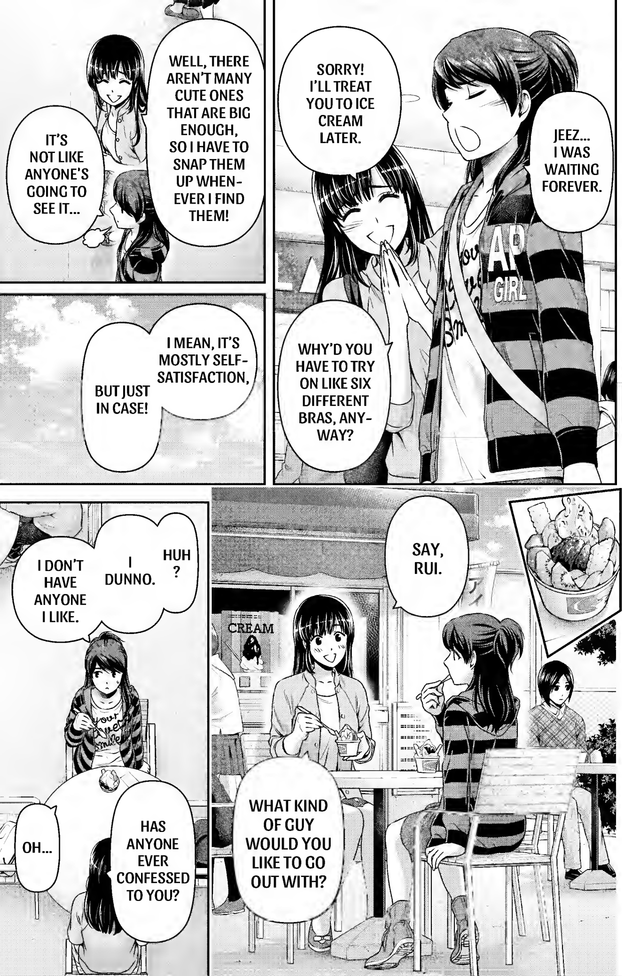

IT'S OKAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT!
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
YEAH. THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF HOT SPRINGS.
WE'RE HOME!
HEY, GIRLS.
GOOD TIMING.
CAN YOU TWO TELL ME WHEN YOU CAN TAKE SOME TIME OFF FROM WORK?
TIME OFF?
NOW THAT HINA-CHAN'S BACK HOME,
YOUR MOTHER AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT GOING ON A FAMILY TRIP.

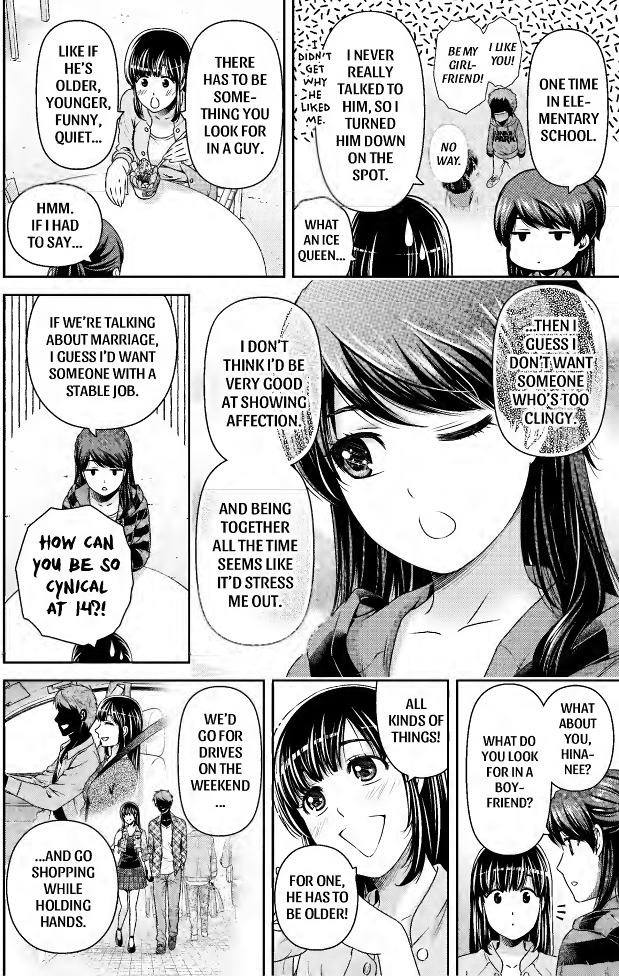
Extra Manga

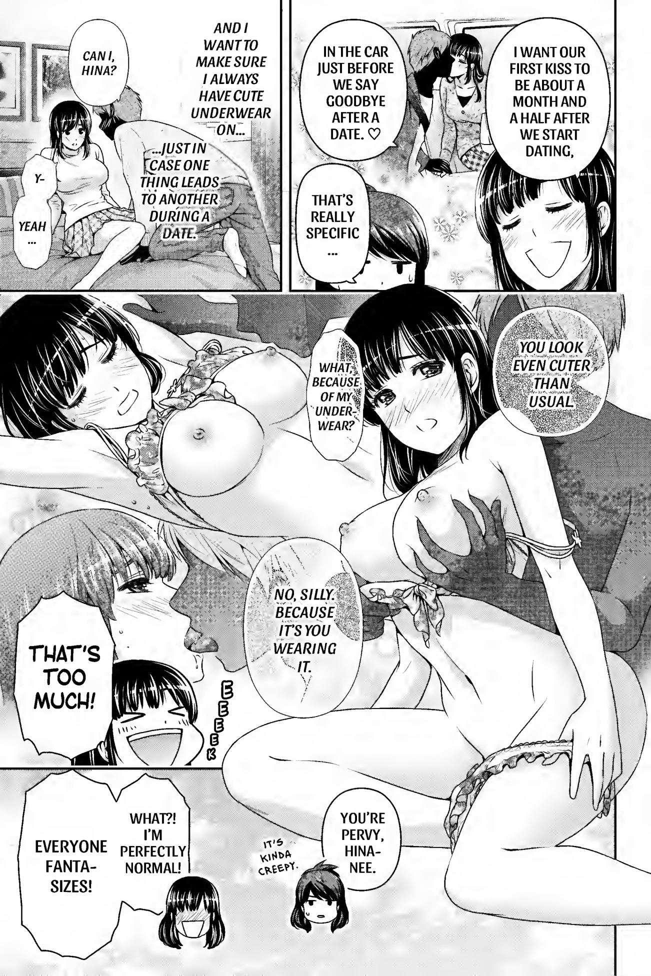
LOVE TALK

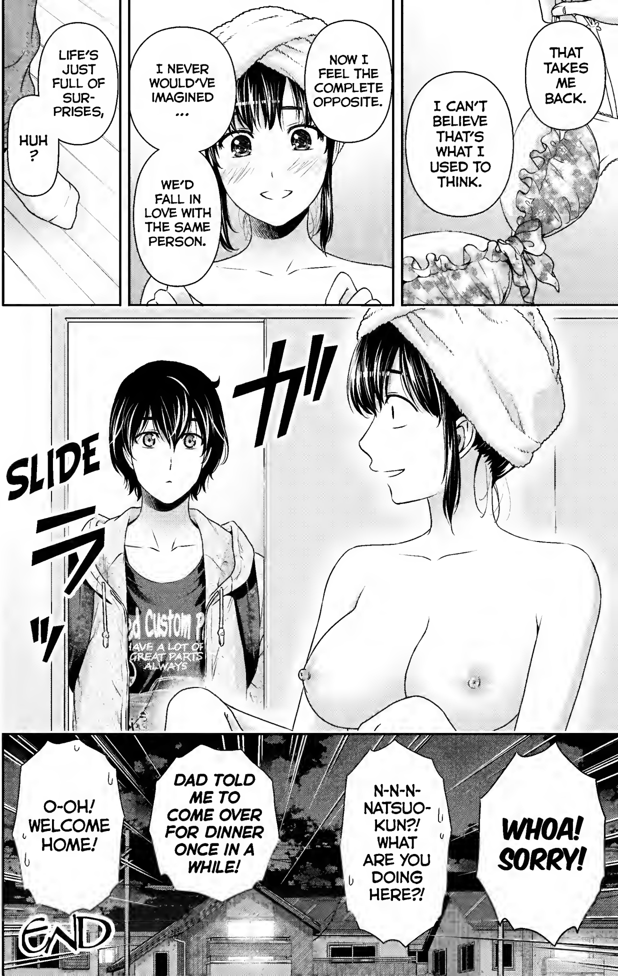

ぎちっ…
STRR
HM?
HUH ?!
WAS THIS BRA ALWAYS THIS TIGHT?
I KNOW I LET IT SIT IN MY DRESSER FOR A WHILE, BUT...
DID MY BOOBS GROW AGAIN?
OR DID I GAIN WEIGHT?
WHEN DID I BUY THIS, ANYWAY?
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT WAS WHEN I WAS TWENTY...


ISN'T THIS BRA A LITTLE BIG?
HEEEY! CAN WE GO YET?
RUI (14)
NOT AT ALL.
THIS SIZE IS PERFECT FOR SHOWING OFF YOUR FIGURE.
HUH? YOU'RE STARTING WITH THAT?!
STUFF
H-
HANG ON A MINUTE.
AL-MOST THERE ...
SEE?
THIS IS THE PROPER WAY TO WEAR A BRA.
OH, WOW! THEY DO LOOK BETTER!
SKSH
LOOK, RUI! IT FITS PERFECTLY!
HEY!


JEEZ... I WAS WAITING FOREVER.
SORRY! I'LL TREAT YOU TO ICE CREAM LATER.
AP GIRL
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO TRY ON LIKE SIX DIFFERENT BRAS, ANYWAY?
WELL, THERE AREN'T MANY CUTE ONES THAT ARE BIG ENOUGH, SO I HAVE TO SNAP THEM UP WHENEVER I FIND THEM!
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE'S GOING TO SEE IT...
I MEAN, IT'S MOSTLY SELF-SATISFACTION,
BUT JUST IN CASE!
SAY, RUI.
CREAM
WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH?
HUH?
I DUNNO.
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE I LIKE.
HAS ANYONE EVER CONFESSED TO YOU?
OH...


ONE TIME IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
I LIKE YOU!
BE MY GIRLFRIEND!
NO WAY.
I NEVER REALLY TALKED TO HIM, SO I TURNED HIM DOWN ON THE SPOT.
I DIDN'T GET WHY HE LIKED ME.
WHAT AN ICE QUEEN...
THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING YOU LOOK FOR IN A GUY.
LIKE IF HE'S OLDER, YOUNGER, FUNNY, QUIET...
HMM. IF I HAD TO SAY...
...THEN I GUESS I DON'T WANT SOMEONE WHO'S TOO CLINGY.
I DON'T THINK I'D BE VERY GOOD AT SHOWING AFFECTION.
AND BEING TOGETHER ALL THE TIME SEEMS LIKE IT'D STRESS ME OUT.
IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE, I GUESS I'D WANT SOMEONE WITH A STABLE JOB.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CYNICAL AT 14?!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HINA-NEE?
WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A BOYFRIEND?
ALL KINDS OF THINGS!
FOR ONE, HE HAS TO BE OLDER!
WE'D GO FOR DRIVES ON THE WEEKEND...
...AND GO SHOPPING WHILE HOLDING HANDS.

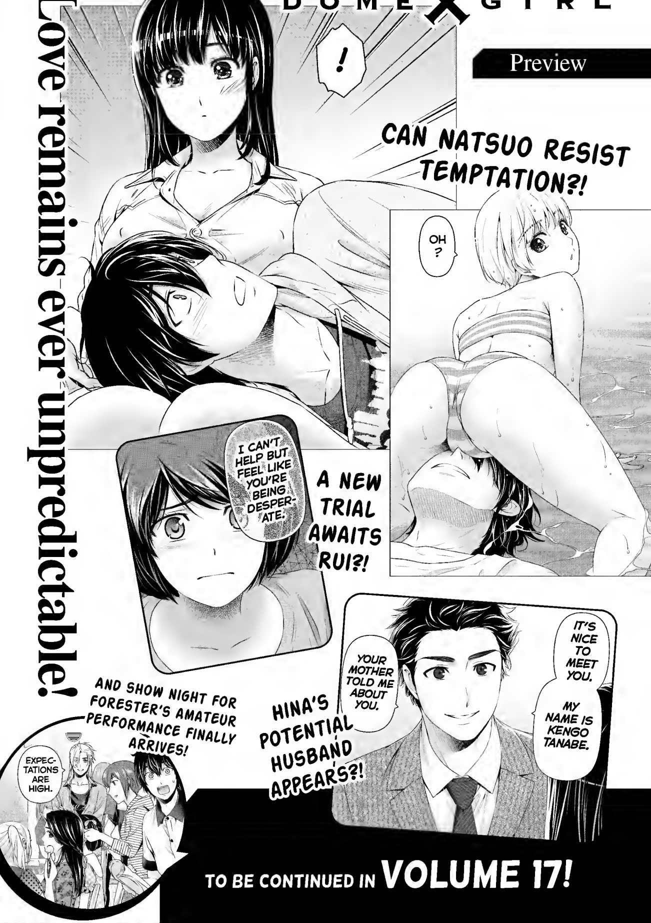

I WANT OUR FIRST KISS TO BE ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF AFTER WE START DATING,
IN THE CAR JUST BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE AFTER A DATE. ♡
THAT'S REALLY SPECIFIC...
AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I ALWAYS HAVE CUTE UNDERWEAR ON...
...JUST IN CASE ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER DURING A DATE.
CAN I, HINA?
Y- YEAH...
YOU LOOK EVEN CUTER THAN USUAL.
WHAT, BECAUSE OF MY UNDERWEAR?
NO, SILLY. BECAUSE IT'S YOU WEARING IT.
EEEEEK
THAT'S TOO MUCH!
YOU'RE PERVY, HINA-NEE.
IT'S KINDA CREEPY.
WHAT?! I'M PERFECTLY NORMAL!
EVERYONE FANTASIZES!


THAT TAKES ME BACK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT I USED TO THINK.
NOW I FEEL THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE.
I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED ...
WE'D FALL IN LOVE WITH THE SAME PERSON.
LIFE'S JUST FULL OF SURPRISES,
HUH?
ガラッ
SLIDE
d Custom P
HAVE A LOT OF GREAT PARTS ALWAYS
WHOA! SORRY!
N-N-N-NATSUO-KUN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
DAD TOLD ME TO COME OVER FOR DINNER ONCE IN A WHILE!
O-OH! WELCOME HOME!
END

DOME X GIRL

Preview

Love remains ever unpredictable!


!
OH?
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BEING DESPERATE.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME IS KENGO TANABE.
YOUR MOTHER TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH.

CAN NATSUO RESIST TEMPTATION?!

A NEW TRIAL AWAITS RUI?!

HINA'S POTENTIAL HUSBAND APPEARS?!

AND SHOW NIGHT FOR FORESTER'S AMATEUR PERFORMANCE FINALLY ARRIVES!

TO BE CONTINUED IN **VOLUME 17!**

Domestic Girlfriend 16

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Domestic Girlfriend volume 16 copyright © 2017 Kei Sasuga
English translation copyright © 2018 Kei Sasuga

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2017 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

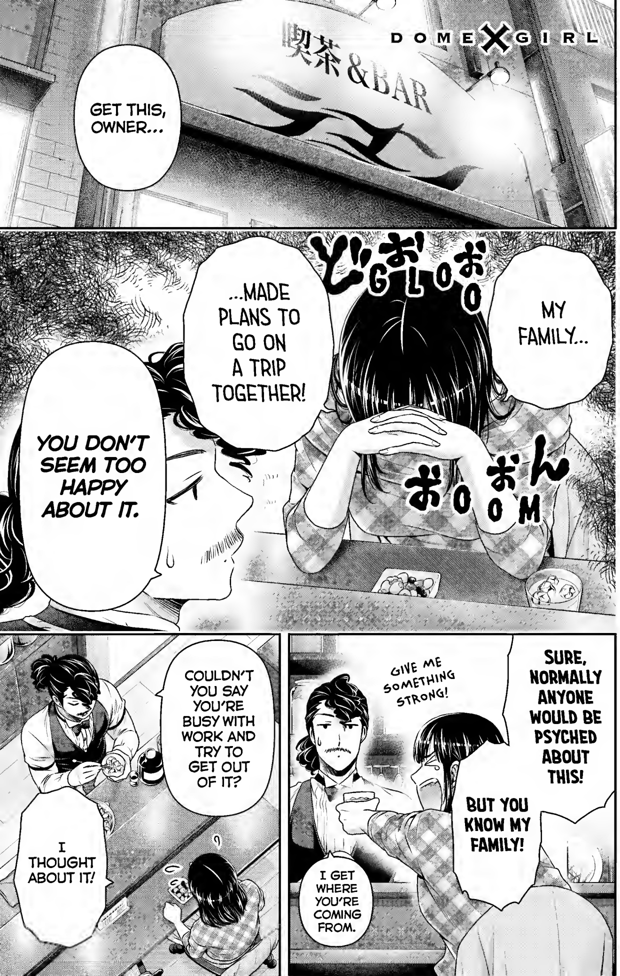
English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

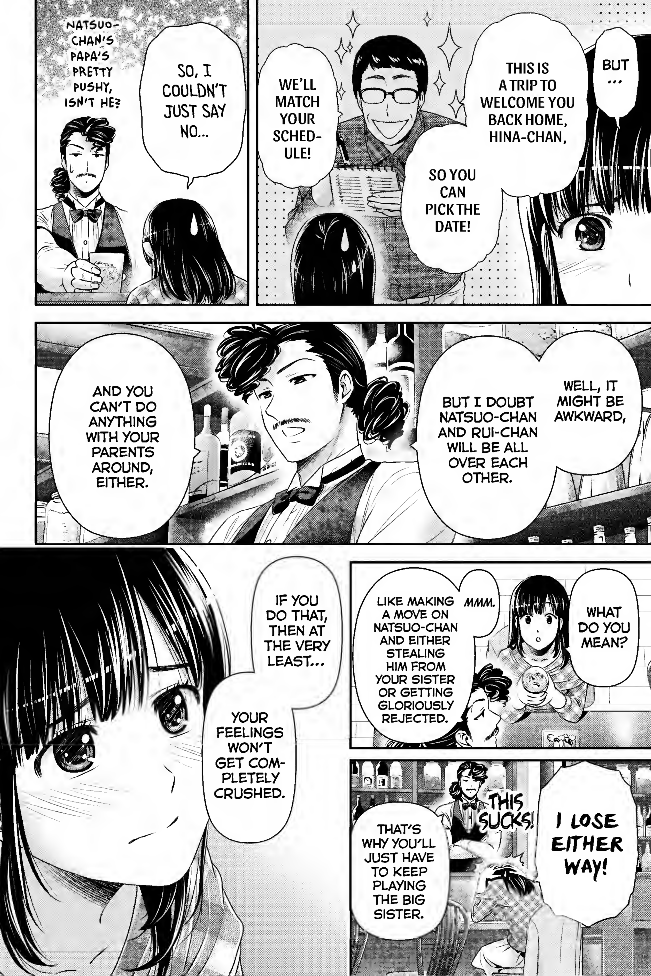
www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781642121551

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

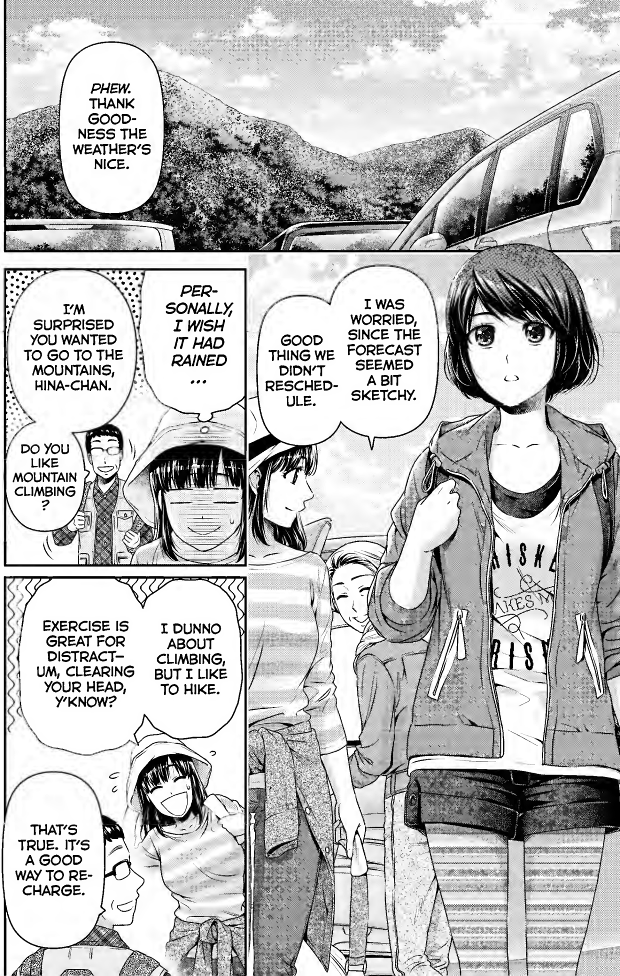
Translation by Adam Hirsch
Lettering by Daniel Park
Editing by Sarah Tilson
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.

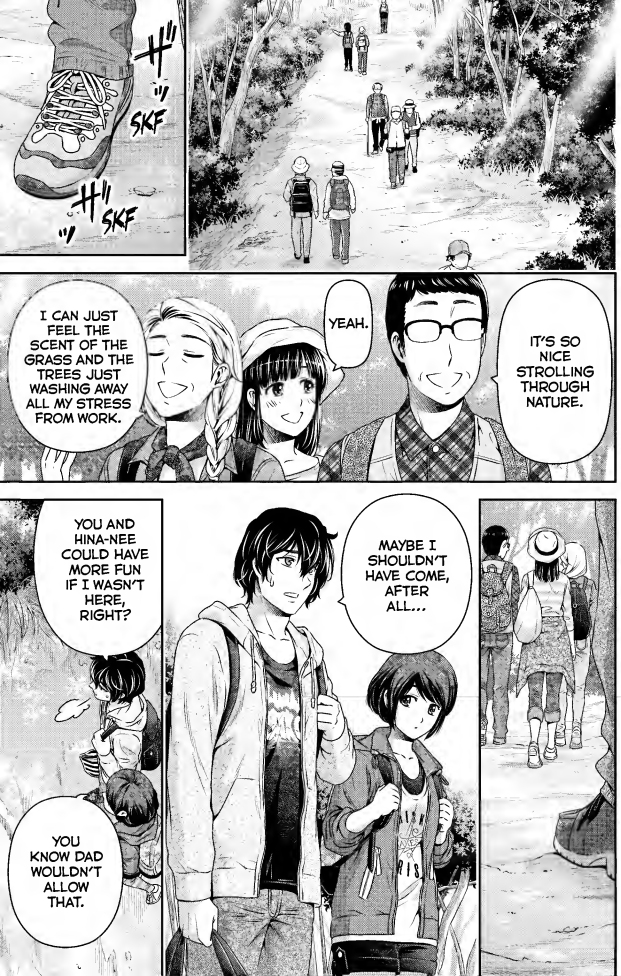

喫茶&BAR
GET THIS, OWNER...
MY FAMILY...
...MADE PLANS TO GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER!
どよおお GLOOO
おおん OOOM
YOU DON'T SEEM TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT.
SURE, NORMALLY ANYONE WOULD BE PSYCHED ABOUT THIS!
GIVE ME SOMETHING STRONG!
BUT YOU KNOW MY FAMILY!
I GET WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.
COULDN'T YOU SAY YOU'RE BUSY WITH WORK AND TRY TO GET OUT OF IT?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT!

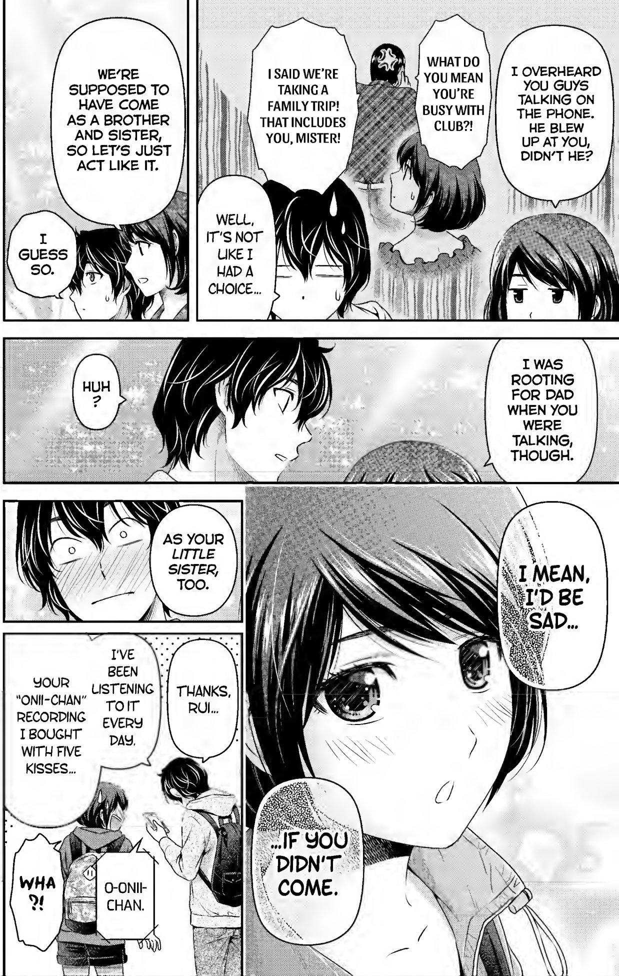

BUT ...
THIS IS A TRIP TO WELCOME YOU BACK HOME, HINA-CHAN,
SO YOU CAN PICK THE DATE!
WE'LL MATCH YOUR SCHEDULE!
SO, I COULDN'T JUST SAY NO...
NATSUO-CHAN'S PAPA'S PRETTY PUSHY, ISN'T HE?
WELL, IT MIGHT BE AWKWARD,
BUT I DOUBT NATSUO-CHAN AND RUI-CHAN WILL BE ALL OVER EACH OTHER.
AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH YOUR PARENTS AROUND, EITHER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MMM.
LIKE MAKING A MOVE ON NATSUO-CHAN AND EITHER STEALING HIM FROM YOUR SISTER OR GETTING GLORIOUSLY REJECTED.
IF YOU DO THAT, THEN AT THE VERY LEAST...
YOUR FEELINGS WON'T GET COMPLETELY CRUSHED.
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP PLAYING THE BIG SISTER.
I LOSE EITHER WAY!
THIS SUCKS!

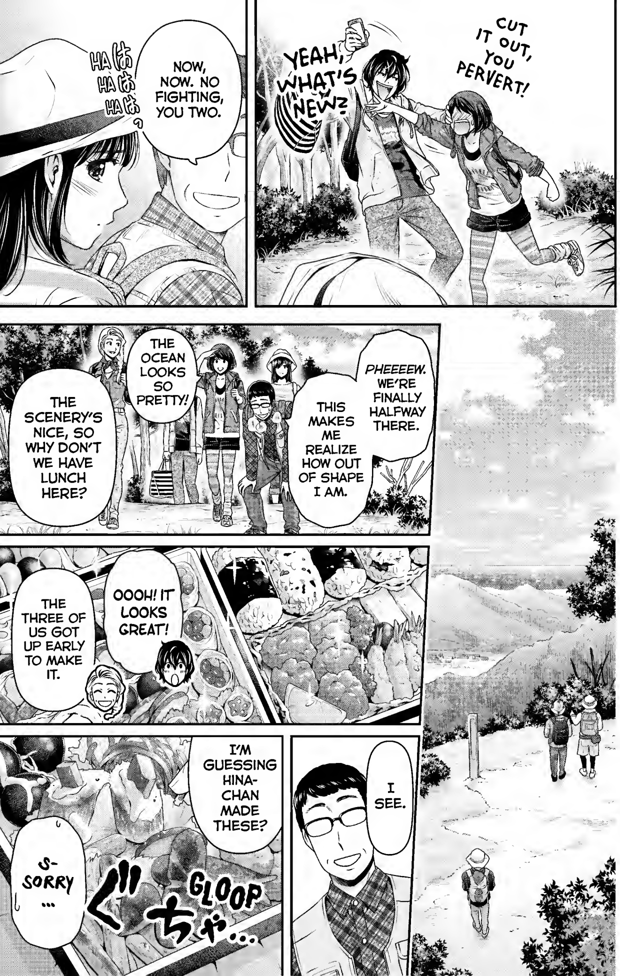
Lovel
&
Cute
SUN
Hello

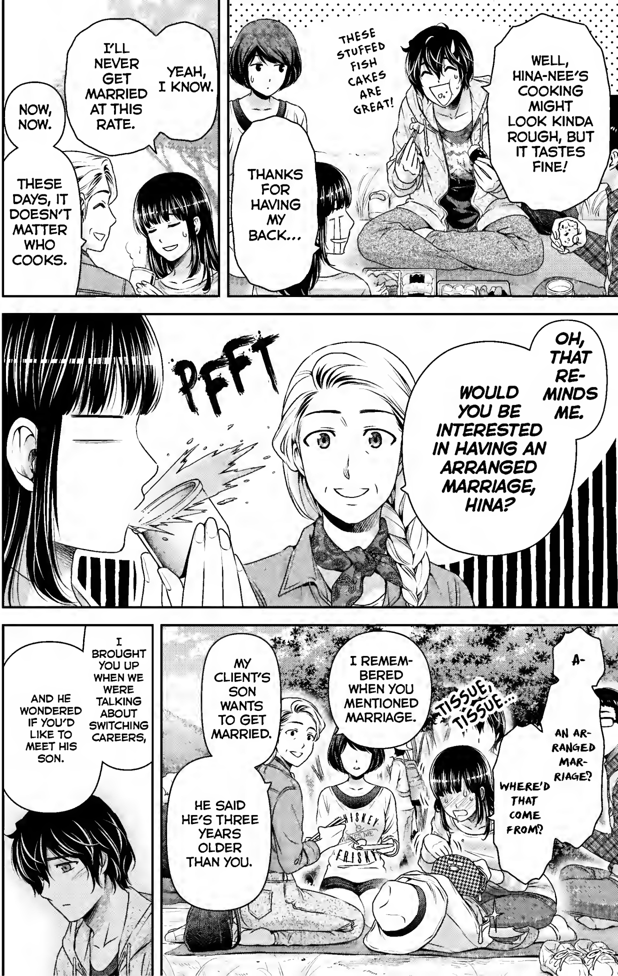
CHAPTER 154: UNFORSAKABLE MEMORIES

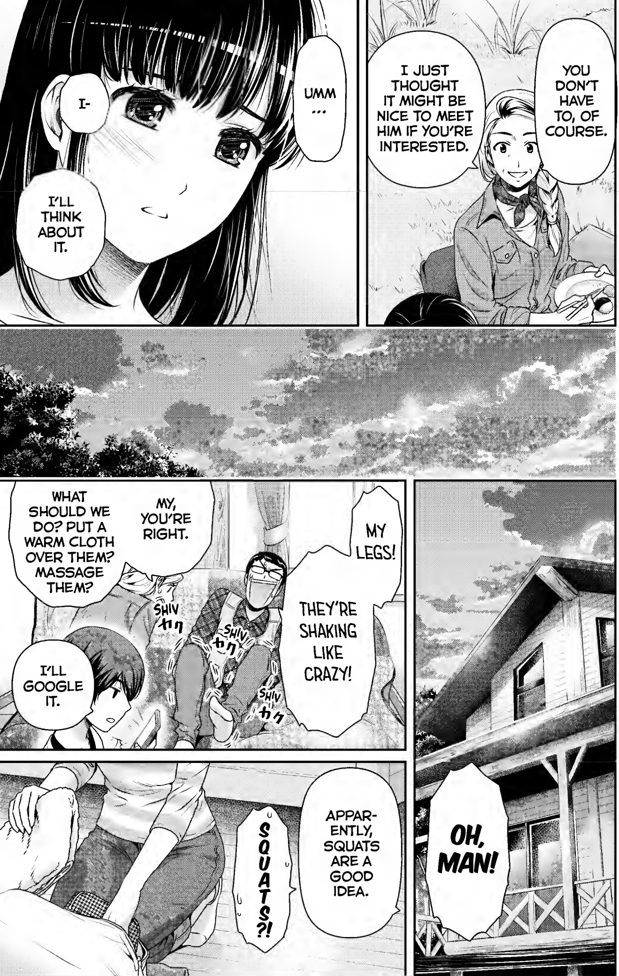

PHEW. THANK GOODNESS THE WEATHER'S NICE.
I WAS WORRIED, SINCE THE FORECAST SEEMED A BIT SKETCHY.
GOOD THING WE DIDN'T RESCHEDULE.
PERSONALLY, I WISH IT HAD RAINED...
I'M SURPRISED YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS, HINA-CHAN.
DO YOU LIKE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING?
I DUNNO ABOUT CLIMBING, BUT I LIKE TO HIKE.
EXERCISE IS GREAT FOR DISTRACT– UM, CLEARING YOUR HEAD, Y'KNOW?
THAT'S TRUE. IT'S A GOOD WAY TO RECHARGE.

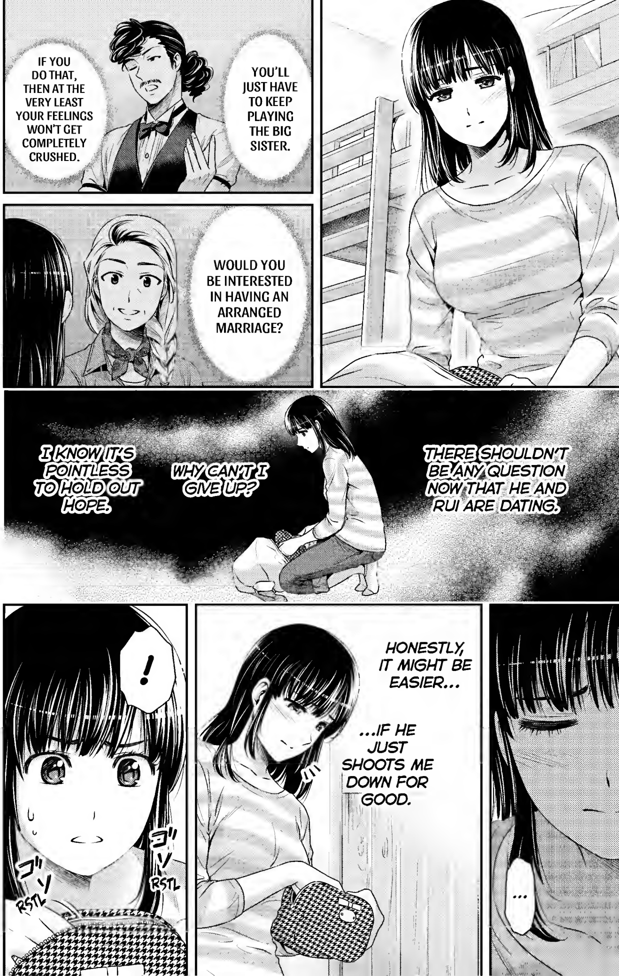

ザッ
SKF
ザッ
SKF
IT'S SO NICE STROLLING THROUGH NATURE.
YEAH.
I CAN JUST FEEL THE SCENT OF THE GRASS AND THE TREES JUST WASHING AWAY ALL MY STRESS FROM WORK.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME, AFTER ALL...
YOU AND HINA-NEE COULD HAVE MORE FUN IF I WASN'T HERE, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW DAD WOULDN'T ALLOW THAT.

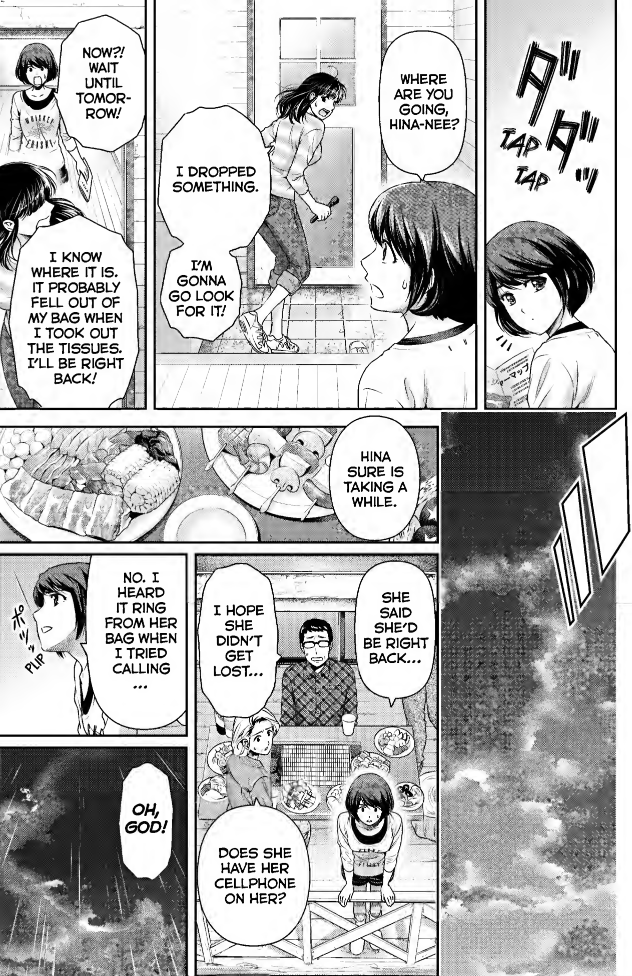

I OVERHEARD YOU GUYS TALKING ON THE PHONE. HE BLEW UP AT YOU, DIDN'T HE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE BUSY WITH CLUB?!
I SAID WE'RE TAKING A FAMILY TRIP! THAT INCLUDES YOU, MISTER!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A CHOICE...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE COME AS A BROTHER AND SISTER, SO LET'S JUST ACT LIKE IT.
I GUESS SO.
I WAS ROOTING FOR DAD WHEN YOU WERE TALKING, THOUGH.
HUH?
I MEAN, I'D BE SAD...
...IF YOU DIDN'T COME.
AS YOUR *LITTLE SISTER*, TOO.
THANKS, RUI...
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO IT EVERY DAY.
YOUR "ONII-CHAN" RECORDING I BOUGHT WITH FIVE KISSES...
O-ONII-CHAN.
WHA?!

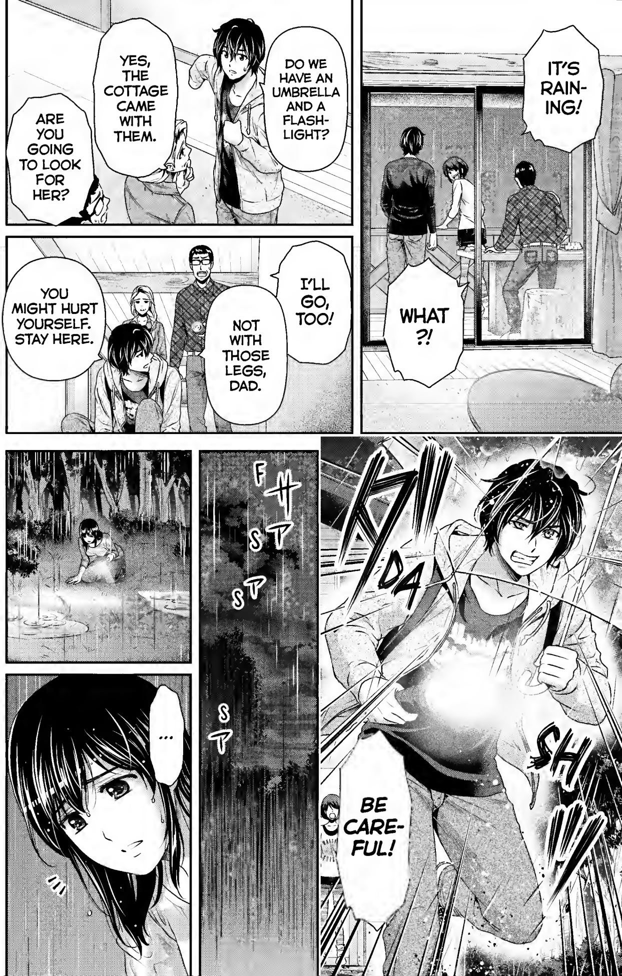

CUT IT OUT, YOU PERVERT!
YEAH, WHAT'S NEW?
NOW, NOW. NO FIGHTING, YOU TWO.
HA は HA は HA はっ
PHEEEEW. WE'RE FINALLY HALFWAY THERE.
THIS MAKES ME REALIZE HOW OUT OF SHAPE I AM.
THE OCEAN LOOKS SO PRETTY!
THE SCENERY'S NICE, SO WHY DON'T WE HAVE LUNCH HERE?
OOOH! IT LOOKS GREAT!
THE THREE OF US GOT UP EARLY TO MAKE IT.
I SEE.
I'M GUESSING HINA-CHAN MADE THESE?
GLOOP
ぐちゃ...
S-SORRY...

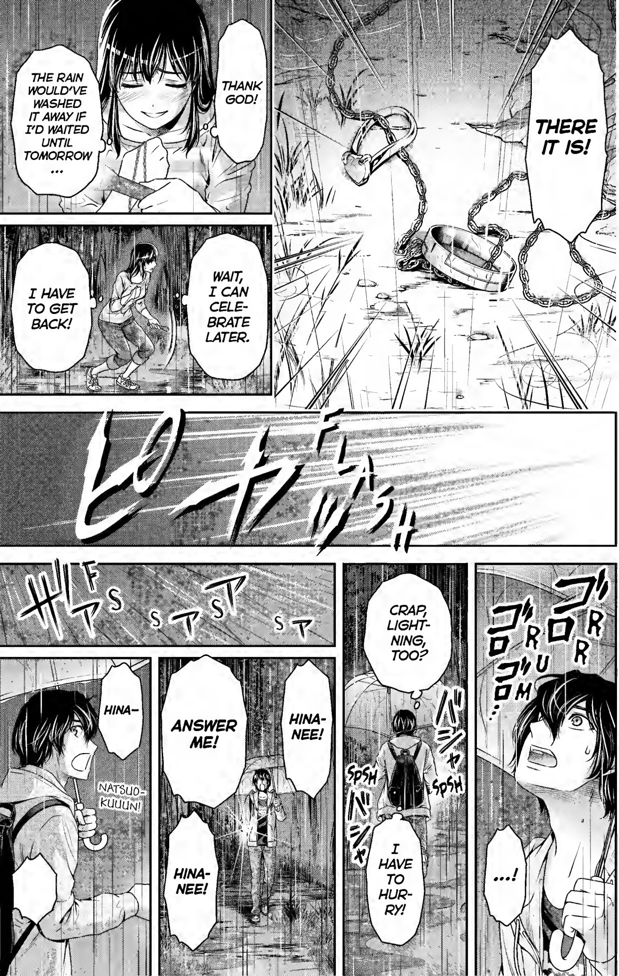

WELL, HINA-NEE'S COOKING MIGHT LOOK KINDA ROUGH, BUT IT TASTES FINE!
THESE STUFFED FISH CAKES ARE GREAT!
THANKS FOR HAVING MY BACK...
I'LL NEVER GET MARRIED AT THIS RATE.
YEAH, I KNOW.
NOW, NOW.
THESE DAYS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO COOKS.
OH, THAT RE-MINDS ME.
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HAVING AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE, HINA?
PFFT
A-
AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
TISSUE, TISSUE...
I REMEMBERED WHEN YOU MENTIONED MARRIAGE.
MY CLIENT'S SON WANTS TO GET MARRIED.
HE SAID HE'S THREE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU.
I BROUGHT YOU UP WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SWITCHING CAREERS,
AND HE WONDERED IF YOU'D LIKE TO MEET HIS SON.

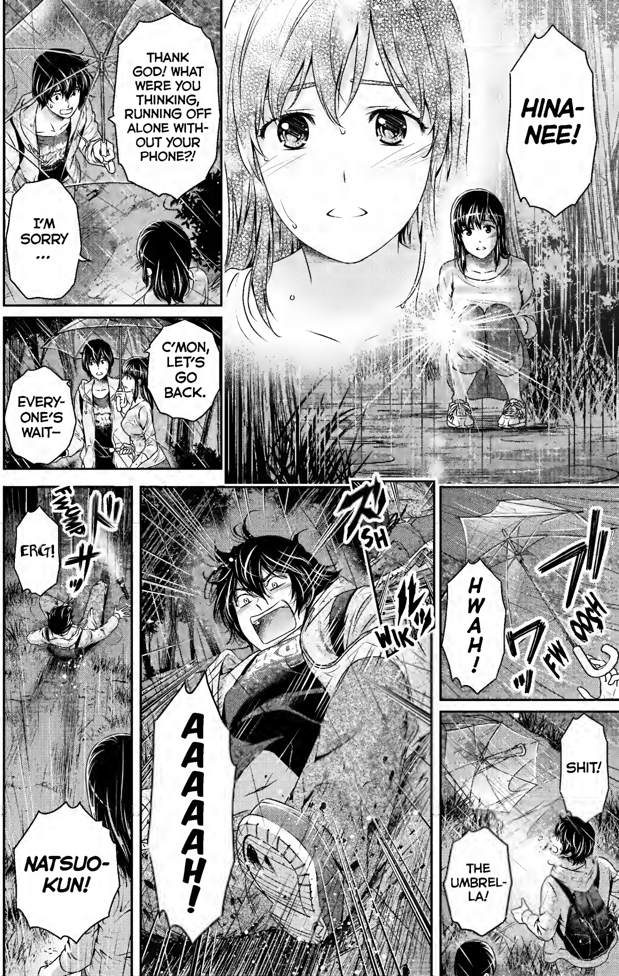

YOU DON'T HAVE TO, OF COURSE.
I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO MEET HIM IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.
UMM ...
I-
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
OH, MAN!
MY LEGS!
THEY'RE SHAKING LIKE CRAZY!
SHIV カク
SHIV カク
SHIV カク
MY, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? PUT A WARM CLOTH OVER THEM? MASSAGE THEM?
I'LL GOOGLE IT.
APPARENTLY, SQUATS ARE A GOOD IDEA.
SQUATS?!

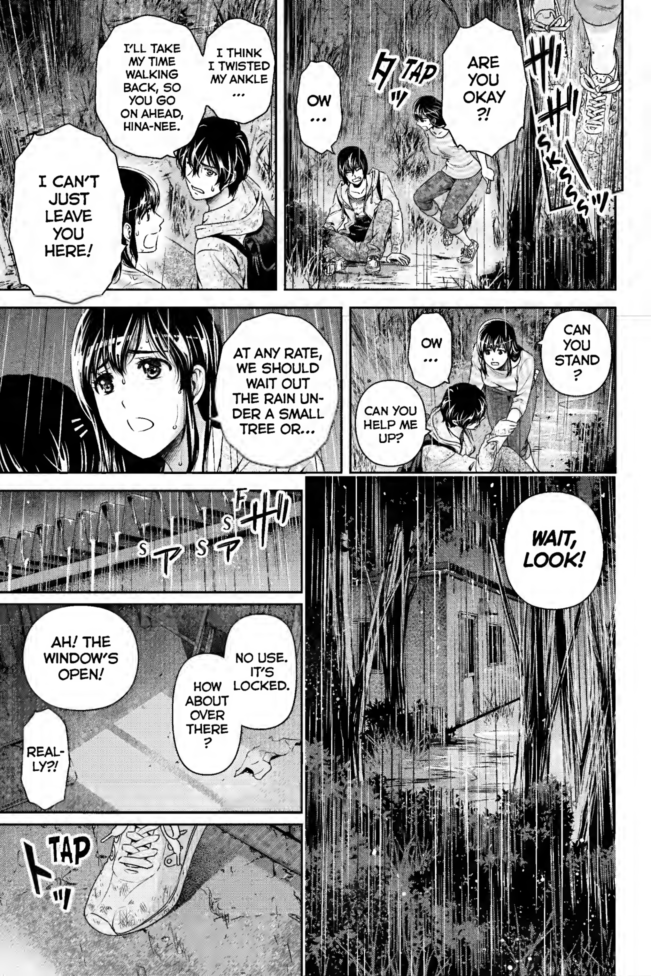

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP PLAYING THE BIG SISTER.
IF YOU DO THAT, THEN AT THE VERY LEAST YOUR FEELINGS WON'T GET COMPLETELY CRUSHED.
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HAVING AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE?
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY QUESTION NOW THAT HE AND RUI ARE DATING.
WHY CAN'T I GIVE UP?
I KNOW IT'S POINTLESS TO HOLD OUT HOPE.
...
HONESTLY, IT MIGHT BE EASIER...
...IF HE JUST SHOOTS ME DOWN FOR GOOD.
!
ゴソ RSTL
ゴソ RSTL

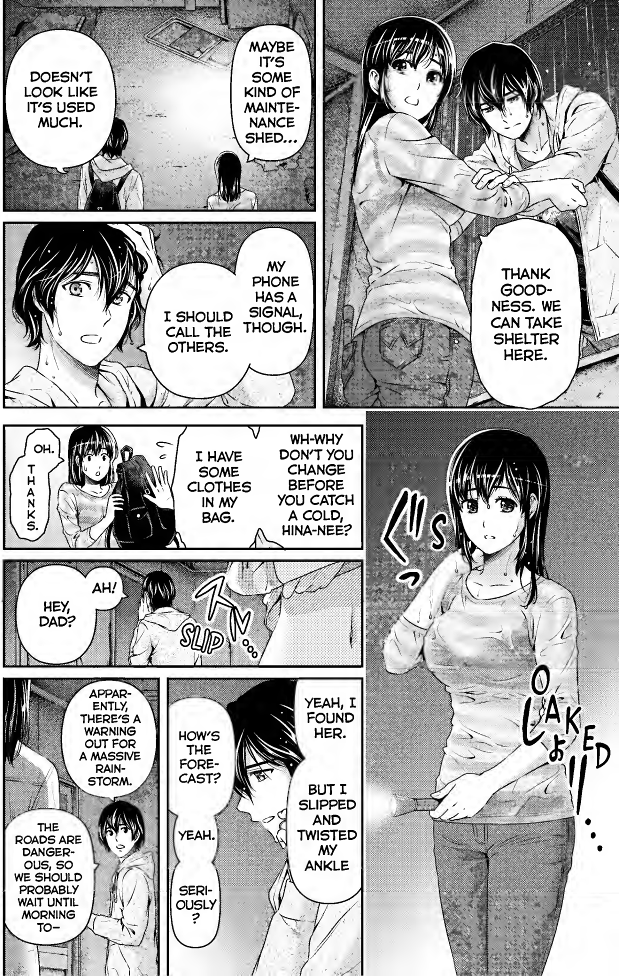

ダダッ
TAP TAP
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, HINA-NEE?
I DROPPED SOMETHING.
I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR IT!
NOW?! WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW!
I KNOW WHERE IT IS. IT PROBABLY FELL OUT OF MY BAG WHEN I TOOK OUT THE TISSUES. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
HINA SURE IS TAKING A WHILE.
SHE SAID SHE'D BE RIGHT BACK...
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T GET LOST...
DOES SHE HAVE HER CELLPHONE ON HER?
NO. I HEARD IT RING FROM HER BAG WHEN I TRIED CALLING...
ポツッ
PLIP
OH, GOD!

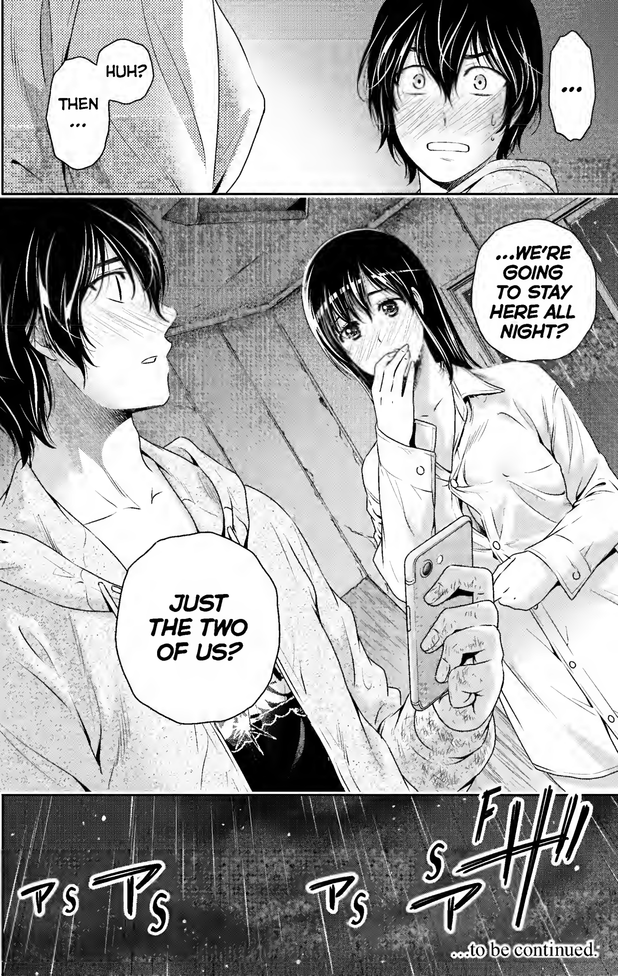

IT'S RAINING!
WHAT?!
DO WE HAVE AN UMBRELLA AND A FLASHLIGHT?
YES, THE COTTAGE CAME WITH THEM.
ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR HER?
I'LL GO, TOO!
NOT WITH THOSE LEGS, DAD.
YOU MIGHT HURT YOURSELF. STAY HERE.
KADA
SHU
BE CAREFUL!
FHST
ST
ST
...


THERE IT IS!
THANK GOD!
THE RAIN WOULD'VE WASHED IT AWAY IF I'D WAITED UNTIL TOMORROW...
WAIT, I CAN CELEBRATE LATER.
I HAVE TO GET BACK!
ピカー
FLASH
ザァァァ
FSSSS
ゴロゴロ
RRRUM
...!
CRAP, LIGHTNING, TOO?
バシャ バシャ
SPSH SPSH
I HAVE TO HURRY!
HINA-NEE!
ANSWER ME!
HINA-NEE!
HINA-
NATSUO-KUUUN!


HINA-NEE!
THANK GOD! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, RUNNING OFF ALONE WITHOUT YOUR PHONE?!
I'M SORRY...
C'MON, LET'S GO BACK.
EVERYONE'S WAIT-
FWOOSH
HWAH!
SHIT!
THE UMBRELLA!
SH
WIK
AAAAAAH!
FWUMP
ERG!
NATSUO-KUN!


SKSSSS
ARE YOU OKAY ?!
TAP
OW ...
I THINK I TWISTED MY ANKLE ...
I'LL TAKE MY TIME WALKING BACK, SO YOU GO ON AHEAD, HINA-NEE.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE!
CAN YOU STAND ?
OW ...
CAN YOU HELP ME UP?
AT ANY RATE, WE SHOULD WAIT OUT THE RAIN UNDER A SMALL TREE OR...
WAIT, LOOK!
F
S S S
NO USE. IT'S LOCKED.
HOW ABOUT OVER THERE ?
AH! THE WINDOW'S OPEN!
REALLY?!
TAP


THANK GOODNESS. WE CAN TAKE SHELTER HERE.
MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF MAINTENANCE SHED...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S USED MUCH.
MY PHONE HAS A SIGNAL, THOUGH.
I SHOULD CALL THE OTHERS.
ぐっしょ
SOAKED!!...
WH-WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD, HINA-NEE?
I HAVE SOME CLOTHES IN MY BAG.
OH.
THANKS.
スル
SLIP...
AH!
HEY, DAD?
YEAH, I FOUND HER.
BUT I SLIPPED AND TWISTED MY ANKLE
HOW'S THE FORECAST?
YEAH.
SERIOUSLY?
APPARENTLY, THERE'S A WARNING OUT FOR A MASSIVE RAINSTORM.
THE ROADS ARE DANGEROUS, SO WE SHOULD PROBABLY WAIT UNTIL MORNING TO–


...
HUH? THEN ...
...WE'RE GOING TO STAY HERE ALL NIGHT?
JUST THE TWO OF US?
PS
PS
PS
PSFHH!

...to be continued.